

Hafa Adai!

Judge dismisses sexual abuse case. PAGE 2
5.3-magnitude earthquake hits Saipan. PAGE 3

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WHAT NOW?

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Nearly a week after the Federal Bureau of Investigation executed several search warrants that have ensnared the Office of the Governor and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres himself, his administration is soldiering on, with a statement yesterday that a strong economy remains a priority for the Commonwealth.

Angel Demapan, chief of staff of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, told *Saipan Tribune* in an email response yesterday that the Torres administration is unaware of what will happen after the FBI investi-

gations, which continues to be shrouded in mystery and much speculation.

"The administration is not aware what happens next. The execution of the search war-

See WHAT on Page 4

» 'Strong economy remains priority'



File photo shows the façade of the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

'Inmate hung self'

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

Both the Department of Corrections and Department of Public Safety were mum yesterday about the case of an inmate who was

found dead at the prison last Monday but a *Saipan Tribune* source affirmed unofficial reports that the inmate had hung himself.

DPS spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan also declined to disclose the inmate's identity but the *Saipan Tribune* source said the inmate was a 28-year-old Chuukese male

See INMATE on Page 4

Ariz. official accused of selling babies suspended

PHOENIX (AP)—An elected official in Arizona was suspended Monday after he was charged with running a human smuggling scheme that brought pregnant women from the Marshall Islands to

the U.S. to give birth and then paid them to give up their children for adoption.

Leaders in Arizona's most populous county suspended Assessor Paul Petersen without pay for 120 days. The

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors doesn't have the power to permanently remove him from his office, which determines the value of properties for tax purposes in Phoe-

See ARIZ. on Page 4

USCIS urges parolees to check case status if expecting response

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is urging parolees who have yet to receive a response for a previous re-parole application to check

their case status online.

A USCIS spokesperson told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that parolees who are expecting a response for their re-parole application, but has not received

» 'Expired parolees need to exit'

one should first check their case status on the USCIS website or contact them through phone.

"In order to have had parole extended after Dec. 31, 2018, an individual would have had

to have received a grant letter extending parole until June 29, 2019, in response to a request for extension made in 2018 or early 2019. USCIS announced in late June 2019 that parolees were automatically extended until Oct. 28, 2019, and that

any individual desiring extension of parole beyond Oct. 28, 2019, needed to file a new request for extension," the spokesperson said, adding that the agency doesn't comment on individual cases or circumstances.

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Newly opened Mermaid Restaurant offers both lunch and dinner buffets.

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WORLD

Israel targets two senior commanders from the Palestinian group Islamic Jihad, killing one.

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LIFE & STYLE

R&B crooner John Legend has been named the Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine.

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Local

Judge finds OAG negligent, dismisses sexual abuse case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has dismissed a sexual abuse case against a man after finding that it took the Office of the Attorney General over a year and 11 months to bring the suspect to trial since his arrest last year.

In his order Tuesday dis-

missing the case against Jeffry Manarang Fernandez, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that the OAG violated the defendant's constitutional right to a speedy trial. He said the OAG was negligent or reckless by filing a clearly meritless interlocutory appeal that caused the delay.

Interlocutory appeal refers

to a request for an appellate court to review a ruling by a trial court that is made before the trial court itself has concluded.

The case against Fernandez was dismissed with prejudice, which means the OAG can no longer re-file the charge against the 36-year-old Fernandez. That charge—sexual

abuse of a minor in the first degree—is the sole charge in the case against Fernandez.

Camacho said the Commonwealth failed to show that Fernandez is responsible for the delay.

Although Fernandez filed several motions and asked that the original May 2018 trial date be postponed. Camacho said his actions did not significantly contribute to the delay.

In comparison, the judge said, the government's interlocutory appeal caused the trial to be delayed by a year, which is enough by itself to trigger a constitutional speedy trial analysis.

According to court records, Fernandez was arrested on Jan. 25, 2018, for allegedly sexually abusing a 15-year-old girl on June 8, 2016. Fifteen days later, on Feb. 9, 2018, Fernandez was released after posting a \$2,500 cash and \$22,500 in unsecured appearance bond. The original bail is \$25,000 cash.

On May 23, 2018, Camacho granted Fernandez's motion to dismiss count 2—sexual assault in the first degree—as it was multiplicitous and violates the constitutional protection from double jeopardy.

Camacho, however, did not dismiss count I, the sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

On June 11, 2018, assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilbershied filed a motion to reconsider granting Fernandez's motion to dismiss count 2. Camacho denied that.

On Aug. 3, 2018, almost two weeks before the trial, the government filed its notice of appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court.

The notice of appeal sought appellate review of both the court's double jeopardy order and the court's reconsideration order (interlocutory appeal).

On Aug. 6, 2018, based on the OAG's filing of the notice of appeal, Camacho stayed any further proceedings and vacated the trial date.

The Superior Court's clerk of court's office filed notice of the record on July 11, 2019—11 months after the government filed its notice of appeal.

On Aug. 1, 2019, the government filed its motion to voluntarily dismiss the appeal.

The OAG stated in its appellate dismissal motion that it had not appealed the double jeopardy order dismissing count 2 within the 30-day time frame provided by the NMI Supreme Court rule.

The OAG said the government would face an "extreme-

ly high hurdle" in having to prove the Superior Court abused its discretion by failing to correct a "clear error" or "manifest injustice" in the Superior Court's denial of the Commonwealth's motion to reconsider.

The OAG also believed "that it is unlikely that this appeal will succeed in demonstrating that the Superior Court abused its discretion in denying the motion to reconsider."

Last Aug. 6, exactly a year after the Superior Court stayed the proceeding in this case, the CNMI Supreme Court granted the government's motion to dismiss its appeal.

Last Aug. 23, Fernandez filed a declaration in support of his motion to dismiss the case due to violation of his right to a speedy trial.

Last Oct. 4, Camacho heard all of the motions that had been stayed pending appeal. At the hearing, assistant attorney general Frances Demapan argued for the government. Assistant public defender Heather Zona appeared for Fernandez, who was also present.

At the Oct. 4 hearing, Camacho adjudicated the four motions that had been pending during the appeal and took the defendant's speedy trial motion under advisement.

In his order Tuesday dismissing the case, Camacho said that, although Fernandez's motions may have theoretically also contributed to the delay, this ultimately never happened because the Commonwealth's interlocutory appeal stayed the Superior Court proceedings.

Additionally, Camacho said, the government's argument that the clerk of court of the Superior Court was responsible for some of the delay because the clerk filed a number of requests with the CNMI Supreme Court for an extension of time to file the certified record is also unpersuasive.

This is because any delay attributed to the clerk of court also weighs in Fernandez's favor for speedy trial purposes, the judge pointed out.

Camacho said under the particular set of facts in this case, he finds that the delay caused by the Commonwealth's interlocutory appeal is neither valid nor justified because the government has a clearly weak position in its appeal of the double jeopardy order for a year.

Camacho said the government's appeal of his reconsideration order was clearly weak.

The judge said the weakness of the appeal of the reconsideration order is evidenced by the Commonwealth's act of voluntarily dismissing its appeal of the reconsideration order.

Camacho noted that the Commonwealth conceded that its position in its appeal of the reconsideration order was weak when it stated in its motion to voluntarily dismiss appeal that "the Commonwealth believes that it is unlikely this appeal will succeed."

Additionally, Camacho said, the Commonwealth was negligent in bringing and maintaining its appeal of the Superior Court's double jeopardy order because the government failed to file its appeal of the court's double jeopardy order within the 30-day time frame specified by the CNMI Supreme Court rule, thereby making the court's double jeopardy order unreviewable by the CNMI Supreme Court.

Camacho said the government's assertion that the delay caused by its appeal "was not intentionally calculated to hamper the defense" rings hollow and is unpersuasive.

Camacho said for almost two years, Fernandez has been ordered to stay away from his wife and children as a condition of his bail. This is no small matter, Camacho said, as the defendant has missed spending valuable time with his family, the loss of which can never be recovered.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS reports out today

Saipan Southern High School mid semester progress report is scheduled for today Nov. 14, 2019, from 4pm to 5:30pm. Call 237-3710 or 237-3702 if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

MHS reports out today

Marianas High School will be having its first semester Mid-Progress Open House today, Nov. 14, 2019, from 4pm to 6pm at the new cafeteria. (PR)

MVA membership meeting today

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its semi-general membership meeting today, Nov. 14, 2019, at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort at 10am. Registration will begin at 9:30am. For more information, contact communityprojects@mymarianas.com or call (670) 664-3200. (MVA)

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5.3-magnitude earthquake hits Saipan

A 5.3-magnitude earthquake was detected yesterday, Nov. 13, 2019, at 12:59am some 137 kilometers east-northeast of Saipan, but the CNMI Emergency Operations Center assured that the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued no tsunami warnings or advisories for this earthquake.

This comes soon after the EOC reported a 4.9-magnitude earthquake on Nov. 8 2019, that occurred at 5:48pm some 212 kilometers west-northwest of Farallon de Pajaros. There was also no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

In Guam, a report of a 5.1-magnitude earthquake occurred at 2:28am on Nov. 6 some 180 kilometers south-southwest of Merizo. That follows a 4.5 magnitude earthquake that occurred at 12:39pm on Nov. 5 about 97 km southwest of Merizo. In both cases, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center is

Water service outage on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Lower Navy Hill

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said yesterday that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for customers along Chalan Pale Arnold Road from Twins Market to the Marina Heights building and for customers on Lower Navy Hill on Friday, Nov. 15, from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

CUC customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the emergency water service interruption is to allow CUC's water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged 2-inch main service lateral located at the intersection to the Marina Heights building and to Smiling Cove Marina in Garapan.

The outer northbound lane by the traffic lights near Marina Heights will be closed, so motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

sued no tsunami warnings or advisories.

A 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred 240 kilome-

ters from Pagan on Nov. 3 at 9am. There were also no tsunami warnings or advisories for that tremor.

Farther out in the Pacific, EOC reported a 6.9-magnitude earthquake in the Tonga Islands at 8:44am on Nov. 5,

2019. Based on all available data, there was no tsunami threat to the CNMI from that earthquake.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (*Saipan Tribune*)

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9H084 Chalk White, 2.0L 4 cyl Engine 147 hp, 7 LCD Screen rear view camera
9H009 Blue Lagoon, 2.0L 4 cyl Engine 147 hp, 7 LCD Screen rear view camera
SAVINGS \$2,000 **PRICE** \$21,995

2019 Hyundai Tucson
9H087 Aqua Blue, 2.0L GDI 4 cyl Engine, 164 HP, Camera & Bluetooth
9H096 Gemstone Red, 2.0L GDI 4 cyl Engine, 164 HP, Camera & Bluetooth
9H107 Black, 4-cyl. 2.0L GDI 4 cyl Engine, 164 HP, Camera & Bluetooth
SAVINGS \$2,000 **PRICE** \$23,995

2020 Hyundai Veloster Ultimate
OH001 Sunset Orange, 1.6L 4 cyl 201hp Turbo Engine, Sunroof, AT / MT
OH002 Chalk White Sunset Ocean, 1.6L 4 cyl 201hp Turbo Engine, Sunroof, AT / MT
SAVINGS \$2,000 **PRICE** \$26,995

2020 Hyundai Elantra Sport
OH016 Auto Polar White, 1.6L Turbo GDI Engine 6 speed Auto/Manual Transmission
OH012 Manual Iron Gray, 1.6L Turbo GDI Engine 6 speed AT/MT
OH013 Elantra SE Intense Blue, 1.6L Turbo GDI Engine 6 speed AT/MT
OH014 Elantra SE Polar White, 1.6L Turbo GDI Engine 6 speed AT/MT
OH015 Elantra SE Denim Blue, 1.6L Turbo GDI Engine 6 speed AT/MT
OH022 Auto Fluid Metal, 1.6L Turbo GDI Engine 6 speed AT/MT
SAVINGS \$2,000 **PRICE** \$24,995

2019 Mitsubishi Mirage G4
9M117 Impulse Blue, Keyless Entry, Rearview Camera, Alloy Wheels
SAVINGS \$2,000 **PRICE** \$16,995

2019 Mitsubishi Mirage SE
9M102 Titanium Gray, Allow Wheels, Rearview Camera
9M103 White Pearl, Allow Wheels, Rearview Camera
SAVINGS \$2,000 **PRICE** \$16,995

2019 Mitsubishi Outlander Sport
9M111 Titanium Gray, 5 Passenger SUV, Alloy Wheels, Rearview Camera
9M112 Orient Red, 5 Passenger SUV, Alloy Wheels, Rearview Camera
9M113 White Pearl, 5 Passenger SUV, Alloy Wheels, Rearview Camera
SAVINGS \$2,000 **PRICE** \$23,995

2019 Mitsubishi Outlander SE
9M068 Titanium Gray, Alloy Wheels, Rearview Camera
9M069 White Pearl, Alloy Wheels, Rearview Camera
9M076 Black Pearl, Alloy Wheels, Rearview Camera
SAVINGS \$3,000 **PRICE** \$25,995

2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross Turbo
9M099 Silver, Turbo Charged, Rear View Camera, Allow Wheels
9M101 New Red, Turbo Charged, Rear View Camera, Allow Wheels
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2019 Mazda CX-3 Sport
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7" Full Screen, Keyless Entry, Alloy Wheels
9D153 Eternal Blue, 2.0L 4 cyl Skyactiv-G Eng
7" Full Screen, Keyless Entry, Alloy Wheels
9D154 Machine Gray, 2.0L 4 cyl Skyactiv-G Eng
7" Full Screen, Keyless Entry, Alloy Wheels
9D155 Ceramic, 2.0L 4 cyl Skyactiv-G Eng 7" Full Screen, Keyless Entry, Alloy Wheels
SAVINGS \$2,000 **PRICE** \$21,995

2019 Mazda 6 Sport
9D156 Snowflake White, 2.5L 4 cyl Eng, Keyless Entry, Alloy Wheels, Rearview Camera
9D157 Machine Gray, 2.5L 4 cyl Eng, Keyless Entry, Alloy Wheels, Rearview Camera
SAVINGS \$2,000 **PRICE** \$24,995

2020 Mazda CX-5 Sport
9D161 White Pearl, 2.5L 4 cyl Eng 186hp Skyactiv G Eng, Rearview Camera, Alloy Wheels
9D162 Jet Black, 2.5L 4 cyl Engine 186hp Skyactiv G Eng, Rearview Camera, Alloy Wheels
SAVINGS \$2,000 **PRICE** \$23,995

2019 Mazda CX-5 GT
9D111 Soul Red, Leather, Sunroof, Electric Tailgate, Rearview Camera, Heads up display
SAVINGS \$3,000 **PRICE** \$28,995

MX-5 RF Club Edition
9D168 MX-5 Jet Black, 6 Speed Manual Transmission, Brembo Brakes, BBS Wheels
SAVINGS \$4,000 **PRICE** \$39,995

2019 Mazda CX-9 Sport
9D169 Deep Crystal Blue, 7 Passenger, Alloy Wheels, Rearview Camera, Heads up Display
9D170 Soul Red, 7 Passenger, Alloy Wheels, Rearview Camera, Heads up Display
SAVINGS \$4,000 **PRICE** \$29,995

2019 Mazda CX-9 GT
9D083 Snowflake White Pearl, Leather 7 Passenger, Sunroof, 360 View, AC Seats, Lots of options
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3 establishments sue IPI for alleged obstruction

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three establishments located directly across the casino resort of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in western Garapan are suing IPI for allegedly obstructing their sites and affecting their operations.

American Herbal Essence Group, American Create Beauty Corp., and American Dongsheng Corp., through

counsel Robert T. Torres, are suing IPI for private nuisance and tortious interference with prospective business advantage.

The companies ask the Superior Court to hold IPI liable to pay them undetermined damages and court costs. They demand a jury trial.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from IPI.

According to Torres in the complaint, the plaintiffs are

lessees of a commercial space on Coral Tree Avenue across IPI's casino.

On Dec. 20, 2018, Torres said, IPI began extensive excavation of a large portion of Coral Tree Avenue, which extended within close proximity to plaintiffs' leased premises.

Torres said IPI dug a 2-foot-deep trench and posted detour signs redirecting foot and vehicular traffic away from the entrance of the plaintiffs' leased premises.

Two weeks later, IPI and its contractors redirected its construction to the main entrance of its casino and hotel and left behind the open trench, Torres said. When the plaintiffs complained to the Division of Coastal Resource Management, Department of Public Works, Department of Environmental Quality, and the Casino Commission about the road construction, DCRM director Janice C. Castro reportedly responded in an email that IPI had been granted a major siting permit for the

roadside construction. The lawyer said that, according to Castro, upon inspection of the construction site, it was determined that no permit violations had occurred. Torres said Castro advised that DCRM will continue to monitor the work being performed by IPI.

He said that last March 21, IPI finally completed its pavement repair work on Coral Tree Avenue and has back-filled the trench, yet it continues to obstruct the area by maintaining its detour signs, preventing access to the area.

As a result, Torres said, the plaintiffs' use of its leased premises and operation of business remain affected.

This, Torres said, has frustrated and impacted plaintiffs' contractual relationship with its landlord.

Torres said the plaintiffs had spent a lot of time and money to renovate the leased premises in preparation for the Western and Chinese New Year in anticipation of increased business during these holidays, but have failed to attract customers and its patrons due to IPI's acts.

17 take oath as new citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A native of Madagascar, who will soon leave Saipan for work in Africa, got herself a great going-away present after joining 16 others yesterday in a naturalization ceremony in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

"I did it. And I thank my family and my husband, who brought me to this new culture," said Christina Abeare, who is currently studying at the Northern Marianas College taking up business administration, with a major in accounting. "I'm much relieved. I'm happy and excited to be American."

Abeare said this does not mean that she is going to lose

her culture; rather, she said she is going to be embracing another culture.

Abeare, 37, met her biologist husband, Dr. Shane Abeare, in Madagascar in 2019, where he worked as director of a marine conservation non-profit group. They later moved to the U.S. mainland and were married there. After four years, the couple flew to Saipan after Dr. Abeare got a job at the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Dr. Abeare said he has another job in Africa and that they will be leaving Saipan in two to three weeks.

For Pamela Olivia Villadore Walsh, she is thankful to her husband and America for the new opportunities that await her.

"Today is the first day I am using my husband's last name," said the 39-year-old teacher at Saipan International School.

Walsh, who hails from Quezon City, the Philippines, said with her citizenship, she and her husband can travel more or move to the U.S. mainland. She actually did not expect to take her oath yesterday as she just had her naturalization interview last week.

Walsh worked as a teacher in Japan for 13 years. She moved to Saipan in 2015, where she met her husband. The two were married in Japan and they have two children.

Dr. Alberto Banarez Ventura, 72, is excited to be a U.S. citizen. Ventura, a dentist who hails from Makati, Philippines, first arrived on Saipan in 1978. He was a dentist at

the Commonwealth Health Center for 33 years. He is currently working in a private dental clinic, Smile Marianas.

Ventura obtained his citizenship after one of his four Saipan-born children petitioned him.

Former press secretary Peter A. Callaghan, who is a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, served as the guest speaker at the ceremony.

"I am a veteran and, since last Monday was Veterans Day, you got me," Callaghan told U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, drawing laughs from the people in the courtroom.

Callaghan, who served the U.S. Air Force for 20 years and spent almost a year in three different prison camps

in Hanoi, believes his experience in Vietnam gave him a much deeper appreciation of the freedoms that people enjoy as Americans and that the new citizens enjoy as new Americans. "As new citizens I think that it is something that you will appreciate also," he said.

Callaghan recalled that he was also in the same courtroom 12 years ago when he watched his wife took her oath as a U.S. citizen.

Callaghan said they don't ask the new citizens to give up their tradition where they came from, or to give up their families or values.

"What we do ask is bring the best of your culture to us. And in return, we will give you the best of our culture.

Congratulations and welcome to the United States. I'm proud of all of you," Callaghan said.

Callaghan is active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and CNMI Crime Stoppers Program.

Aside from Abeare, Walsh, and Ventura, the other new citizens are Norman Lugtu Arda, Anita Bendana Barce, Cecilia Cabute Batallones, Renato Prado Batallones, Lolita Valino Catap, David Acain Cuevas Jr., Lorito Dominic Feria, Rosalina Del Rosario Garcia, Ma Leo Ann Derla Hix, Ernesto Nabong Lopez, Yan Che Magofna, Angelito Dela Cruz Sandig, Fe Sinfuego Sicad, and Miguel Capanas Sicad Jr. They are mostly originally from the Philippines.

ARIZ.

From Page 1

nix and its suburbs.

Petersen, who is in federal custody, has so far refused to resign since his arrest on Oct. 8. His lawyer, Kurt Altman, said Petersen will fight to keep the \$77,000-a-year job he was last elected to in 2016. He has pleaded not guilty Tuesday to federal charges in Arkansas.

Petersen's trial in Arkan-

sas on human smuggling and adoption fraud charges is set for Dec. 9.

He also faces charges in Arizona and Utah. His next court appearances are Nov. 1 in Salt Lake City and Nov. 5 in Phoenix.

Petersen, a Republican, has been indicted in federal court in Arkansas and also charged in Arizona and Utah with crimes that include human smuggling, sale of a child, fraud, forgery and conspiracy

to commit money laundering.

The criminal case spans three years and involves some 75 adoptions, authorities said, with about 30 adoptions pending in three states.

Petersen is accused of illegally paying women from the Marshall Islands to have their babies in the United States and give them up for adoption. The women were crammed into homes owned or rented by Petersen, sometimes with little to no prenatal care, court

documents say.

Petersen charged families \$25,000 to \$40,000 per adoption, prosecutors said.

Petersen completed a mission in the Marshall Islands, a collection of atolls and islands in the eastern Pacific, for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He later worked in the islands and the U.S. on behalf of an international adoption agency before going to law school and becoming an adoption attorney.

rant was a function of the FBI. The administration...is not privy to any other information other than the execution of the search warrant," Demapan said in the email, in response to a *Saipan Tribune* query.

As to what should be expected from the administration moving forward, Demapan said the focus is the continued operations of the government and on a "strong economy" for the CNMI.

"[The governor], Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and the administration remain focused on continuing the operations of the government and ensuring that the delivery of public services remains unhindered. We continue to seek the community's patience to respect the integrity of the process and the systems of justice," Demapan stated.

"Ultimately, Gov. Torres looks forward to bringing closure to this matter so that he can fully focus his efforts on his longstanding commitment to public service and the administration's goals toward building a strong economy for the Marianas," he added.

While the governor's family recently lost a close family member, Demapan said that Torres would not be going on leave.

The FBI agents executed several search warrants last Thurs-

INMATE

From Page 1

with an alleged history of burglary. Due to the nature of the victim's death, *Saipan Tribune* is choosing not to disclose his name.

Saipan Tribune also learned that medics of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services medics at the scene had said that the victim

was already showing signs of rigor mortis—the stiffening of the body—when found.

In declining to identify the inmate, Pangilinan said the police investigation is ongoing and that DPS has already issued a next-of-kin notification.

The inmate was found unresponsive inside his cell Monday afternoon when a Corrections officer was serving him lunch. The officer called out

the inmate's name, but there was no response. The officer found the unresponsive victim inside his cell, the on-duty controller was notified, and 911 was called.

DFEMS medics reportedly assessed the scene, but were held back as DPS-Crime Scene Investigation was clearing the area and conducting assessments on the inmate's cell before his body could be transported

to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The inmate was pronounced dead by Dr. Rodney Classens at 1:32pm Tuesday.

Saipan Tribune learned that the inmate had been arrested for assault and battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace in 2015 and was then placed in probation for a year. The inmate was arrested again last March for stealing an iPhone X.

USCIS

From Page 1

"But in general, a request for parole would have been answered either with a grant letter or a denial letter. Without one or the other, the best thing an applicant can do is to check Case Status Online

on our website, or phone our Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283, to find out his or her status," the spokesperson noted.

Parolees will have to exit the CNMI though if they have not received an extension for a previous re-parole application as of Oct. 28, 2019.

"If an individual does not have parole or other lawful

basis to remain in the United States, they should leave," a USCIS email response stated.

However, when resubmitting applications for re-parole without leaving the CNMI, an individual may contact USCIS if they believe the agency has not responded to a pending request.

Public Law 116-24 provides

permanent status in the CNMI to parents and spouses of U.S. citizens, in-home caregivers, certain stateless individuals, and immediate relatives of people that are granted permanent status by CNMI immigration law.

USCIS has yet to announce regulations on how parolees can apply for permanent resident status.

As a result, Torres said, the plaintiffs' use of its leased premises and operation of business remain affected.

This, Torres said, has frustrated and impacted plaintiffs' contractual relationship with its landlord.

Torres said the plaintiffs had spent a lot of time and money to renovate the leased premises in preparation for the Western and Chinese New Year in anticipation of increased business during these holidays, but have failed to attract customers and its patrons due to IPI's acts.

As a result, Torres said, the plaintiffs' use of its leased premises and operation of business remain affected.

This, Torres said, has frustrated and impacted plaintiffs' contractual relationship with its landlord.

Torres said the plaintiffs had spent a lot of time and money to renovate the leased premises in preparation for the Western and Chinese New Year in anticipation of increased business during these holidays, but have failed to attract customers and its patrons due to IPI's acts.

WHAT

From Page 1

rant was a function of the FBI. The administration...is not privy to any other information other than the execution of the search warrant," Demapan said in the email, in response to a *Saipan Tribune* query.

As to what should be expected from the administration moving forward, Demapan said the focus is the continued operations of the government and on a "strong economy" for the CNMI.

"[The governor], Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and the administration remain focused on continuing the operations of the government and ensuring that the delivery of public services remains unhindered. We continue to seek the community's patience to respect the integrity of the process and the systems of justice," Demapan stated.

"Ultimately, Gov. Torres looks forward to bringing closure to this matter so that he can fully focus his efforts on his longstanding commitment to public service and the administration's goals toward building a strong economy for the Marianas," he added.

While the governor's family recently lost a close family member, Demapan said that Torres would not be going on leave.

The FBI agents executed several search warrants last Thurs-

day that included the Governor's Office, the office of Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, a consultant for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC; Legend Realty Saipan; the Torres Brothers' law office, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' home, and vehicle.

The FBI, along with the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, also visited the Commonwealth Casino Commission Tuesday. CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero did not disclose the reason for their visit.

Demapan noted in a previous statement that all the information the FBI reportedly provided to the administration is that it was an investigation on "allegations."

"In an effort to preserve the integrity of the process, the administration continues to seek the community's patience and support to allow the system of justice to take its course," Demapan stated.

"Ultimately, Gov. Torres looks forward to bringing closure to this matter so that he can fully focus his efforts on his longstanding commitment to public service and the administration's goals toward building a strong economy for the Marianas," he added.

"We have provided them with all the information and access that they have asked for, with the intent of being completely transparent and helpful in the investigation," Palacios noted in a press conference last Thursday afternoon.

An IPI statement released late last Thursday said: "Our companies have nothing to hide and will cooperate with law enforcement authorities."

CWA elects new board

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Women's Association elected its new board of directors at the association's general membership meeting last Nov. 6 at the CNMI Women's Center on Capital Hill.

The newly elected board include Cindy I. Deleon Guerrero, Cecilia Taitano, Sharina Clark, Linda Cabrera, Anna-mae Adaza, Annie Reyes, and Jovita Paulino.

The outgoing board members are Rose T. Ada-Hocog, Julie Manglona, Jacqueline Che, Dolores Drew, Daisy Demapan, and Erna Ngir-chongor.

CWA administrator Felicidad T. Ogomoro said the board members must exemplify a strong sense of commitment to advancing justness, as well as be able to effectuate solutions to the challenges and barriers women in the CNMI continue to face.

"CWA is strongly committed to its mission of empowering our women and helping

them succeed through the programs and services we provide, which is critical to the strength of our families and our entire Commonwealth," Ogomoro added.

Incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth on April 13, 2011, the CWA is governed by a seven-member board and collaborates with public and private organizations to deliver vital social services to communities throughout the CNMI.

The new board members will be introduced at the inaugural "Fun-Raise-Her" Dinner on Nov. 22, Friday, from 6pm to 10pm, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan, organized by CWA to help raise funds for the operations and programs, as well as services and activities the association provides for girls and women on the island.

To join the association or to purchase tickets for the "Fun-Raise-Her" Dinner, contact CWA at 233-8978/9411, email cwa.fogumoro@gmail.com, or visit the CWA Office (Building #1223) on Capital Hill.

15 students Japan-bound

A batch of 15 CNMI students left for Japan yesterday for a weeklong stay in that country as part of the Office of the Mayor of Saipan's Student Cultural Exchange Program.

The students had an orientation last Nov. 7, Thursday, in collaboration with the International Youth Affairs of Japan Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai to prepare them for their trip.

They will be returning on Nov. 19, Tuesday.

The participating students are from 5th grade to 12th grade and are from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Mount Carmel School, Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School, Saipan Community School, Grace Christian Academy, and Saipan International School.

The activities during the trip include a visit to Daitoubunka Daiichi High School where the students will take part in some of the school's activities and

where the students will make a presentation about Saipan.

They will also stay at the homes of Japanese families during the weekend for a first-hand experience of the Japanese daily life.

Visits to the Ueno Zoo, Sensoji Temple, and Disneyland are also included in the group's itinerary.

The Saipan Mayor's Office's Student Cultural Exchange Program gives CNMI students the opportunity to visit Japan to learn and experience their culture, customs, language, as well as their daily life. The program is being implemented in partnership with the KSKK Student Cultural Exchange Program as a means to promote friendship, respect, peace and mutual understanding between Saipan and Japan.

For more information about the program, contact student exchange program coordinator Yuki Kishimoto at (670) 234-6208 or email her at ykishimoto@mos.gov.mp.

CSO Scholarship Fair on Nov. 30

In celebration of CNMI Scholarship Month, the CNMI Scholarship Office will be holding a scholarship fair on Nov. 30 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 1pm to 3pm. The fair will highlight the monthlong celebration of recognizing and selecting the "2019 CNMI Scholarship Provider of the Year."

The CNMI Scholarship Office's providers are Bank of Guam, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Joeten Enterpris-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Women's Association's newly elected Board of Directors, seated, with members of the CWA, and administrator Felicidad T. Ogomoro, rightmost, standing, at the association's general membership meeting last Nov. 6, Wednesday, at the CNMI Women's Center in Capital Hill.

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GCA Eagles soar high in different competitions



Grace Christian Academy's National Junior Speech & Debate Association October winners have their picture taken at the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy students from Kindergarten to 12th grade keep soaring high like eagles, their school mascot, in different competitions for the past weeks, competing in speech and debate, reading, writing, art, music and sports competitions.

At the second monthly qualifying round of Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition in November, GCA's Kindergarten to 5th grade Eagles bagged 37 awards, with seven 1st place ribbons.

At the junior high level, all the 18 GCA 6th-8th grade competitors won in one or two events at the National Junior Speech & Debate Association competition, bagging five first-place honors in that division.

At the National Speech & Debate Association contest, the school's high school division had only three competitors but they all got 1st place awards.

Sara Elizabeth Keaton, the only GCA competitor in Junior Thespian competition, took home 1st place in Solo Musical. Keaton has been competing in Solo Musical in Junior Thespian since 6th grade.

GCA students also shone at the High School Math Court in the last monthly qualifying competition last October. All of the three competitors emerged winners in their grade level.

In the 'My Hero' contest, two of the four winners selected from over 100 entries were from Grace Christian Academy. The contest, sponsored by Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Crisis Counseling Program, challenged students to recognize the most important person who taught them what it means to triumph over adversity.

The GCA Junior High Lady Eagles almost bagged the championship in the Public School System's Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League, but missed it by only 1 point. The Lady Eagles went into the finals undefeated after sweeping eight games in the regular season.

The GCA community would like to congratulate the GCA competitors for doing their best in extracurricular activities.

PGFC NOVEMBER 2019 WINNERS

K-2 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation

Jing Xi Gigi Yang, 2nd Place
Mirielle Isla Badal, 3rd Place
Gwen Alexandra Retardo, 4th Place

Yunze Leo Li, 5th Place

Humorous Interpretation

Beau Bauer, 4th Place
Impromptu Speaking A

Beau Bauer, 1st Place
Impromptu Speaking B
En Mei Victoria Huang, 1st Place
Mirielle Isla Badal, 2nd Place
Impromptu Speaking C
Gwen Alexandra Retardo, 1st Place
Gina Kwon, 5th Place
Readers Forum A
Hayul Shin, 2nd Place
Readers Forum Masters A
En Mei Victoria Huang, 1st Place
Fiona Yu, 5th Place
Readers Forum Masters B
Seung Woo Lee, 5th Place
Choral Speaking
Jing Qi Gigi Yang, 3rd Place
Allen Gil, 3rd Place
Mykah Jax Salas, 3rd Place
Gina Kwon, 3rd Place
Mutua Wyatt Pugon, 3rd Place

3-5 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation

Qihan Wang, 1st Place
Misako Ota, 2nd Place
Arielle Mae Matutino, 3rd Place

Humorous Interpretation

Hans Gabrielle Ordas, 3rd Place
Breanna May Lopez, 5th Place

Duo Interpretation A

Misako Ota, 3rd Place
Maria Sofia Gomez, 3rd Place

Duo Interpretation B

Rooney Gil, 4th Place
Si Woo Lee, 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking A

Justin Yao Ma, 3rd Place
Akira Ito, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking B

Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 1st Place
Arielle Mae Matutino, 3rd Place

Readers Forum Masters A

Qihan Wang, 4th Place
Readers Forum Masters B

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 4th Place
Rafael Busby, 5th Place

Dramatic Interpretation

Tae Hee Kim, 2nd Place
Jennifer Woo, 4th Place

Declamation

Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 3rd Place
Story Telling A

Moira Grace Ernest, 4th Place

Story Telling B

Emma Tenorio, 2nd Place

NJSDA OCTOBER WINNERS
Impromptu Speech A
Gabriel Angelo Retardo, 1st Place
Rafael Busby, 3rd Place
Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 4th Place
Impromptu Speech B
Janus Roman Calayo, 1st Place
Andrew Jeren Nunez, 3rd Place
Apollo Benjamin Sicad, 4th Place
Extemporaneous Speech
Andrew Jeren Nunez, 4th Place
Gabriel Angelo Retardo, 5th Place
Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 4th Place
Rafael Busby, 5th Place
Dramatic Interpretation
Tae Hee Kim, 2nd Place
Jennifer Woo, 4th Place
Declamation
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 3rd Place
Story Telling A
Moira Grace Ernest, 4th Place
Story Telling B
Emma Tenorio, 2nd Place

NSDA (9TH-12TH GRADE)
International Extemporaneous Speech
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st Place
United States Extemporaneous Speech
James Alexander Keaton, 1st Place
Anthony Jacob De Leon Guerrero, 2nd Place
Commentary
James Alexander Keaton, 1st Place
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 2nd Place
Impromptu Speech A
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st Place
Anthony Jacob De Leon Guerrero, 3rd Place

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB20-CHCC-HIV-STD-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM
"PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE (SUV) FOR PUBLIC HEALTH HIV/STD"
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



The Junior High Lady Eagles Basketball Team of Grace Christian Academy pose with their coaches after the championship game at the Marianas High School gym.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Grace Christian Academy's November winners of the Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition have their picture taken at the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Keaton, Martin Pangilinan

Earljean Jonathan Pantaleon,

3rd Place

Prose Reading B

Kei Lizama, 3rd Place

Prose Reading C

Julianna Rue Magtalas, 1st Place

Place

Moira Grace Ernest, 3rd Place

Prose Reading Masters A

Jennifer Woo, 2nd Place

Prose Reading Masters B

Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 2nd Place

Place

Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 4th Place

Poetry Reading B

Julianna Rue Magtalas, 2nd Place

Poetry Reading Masters A

Tae Hee Kim, 1st Place

Poetry Reading Masters B

Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 1st Place

Place

Math Court coach/coordinator:

Susan Pajarillaga

GCA My Hero Contest Winners

Drawing contest -Grades K-5

Joaquin Torres, 2nd grade

Writing contest- Grades 6-12

Anthony Deleon Guerrero, 9th grade

GCA Junior High Lady Eagles Basketball Team

Chelsea Henzon

Julianna Magtalas

Azriel Fatalofa

Charisse Camacho

Tae Hee Kim

Cassie Regan

Eunji Hahn

Julia Taitano

GCA Junior International Thespian Society Winner

Coach: Genesis Prieto

Assistant coach: Leah Fabila

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-004**

SUBMISSION DATE: December 10, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ALU DRIVE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 25, 2019**, 9:00 a.m., local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m., local time on **December 3, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW**

**/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S**

MTEC reboots school outreach this year



Tenth graders at Tinian Jr./Sr. High School answer questions during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Nov. 7, 2019. MTEC visits schools annually to teach students about the Marianas' tourism industry.

MVA

After a year's hiatus following Super Typhoon Yutu, the Marianas Tourism Education Council is forging full steam ahead with its annual school outreach, kicking off with a presentation at Tinian Jr./Sr. High last Nov. 7, 2019.

Thirty-seven 10th graders at the school talked about tourism and the hospitality industry with MTEC chair Vicky Benavente and other presenters.

"Understandably, Tinian's experience with the devastation from Super Typhoon Yutu has made it challenging for the school and its students to focus on anything else but recovery," said Benavente. "But these high school students spoke with great enthusiasm

and knowledge about the CNMI's tourism industry."

Under this year's theme of "VolunTOURISM: Learn today, lead tomorrow," MTEC board member Catherine Perry gave an overview of the Marianas tourism industry to students and shared examples of how they can become involved in the industry in high school, including volunteering and various public and private programs to explore industry career paths.

MTEC presents to 5th, 8th, and 10th graders annually on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in partnership with MVA. The presentations are also sponsored by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Ernst & Young, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and T Galleria.

Schools interested in having a one-hour MTEC presentation may contact MTEC board member Naomi Nishimura at naomi.nishimura@cnmpss.org. (PR)



Marianas Visitors Authority community projects specialist Jack Aranda teaches 10th graders at Tinian Jr./Sr. High School about the responsibilities and activities of the tourism office during the presentation of Marianas Tourism Education Council on Nov. 7, 2019.

MVA



From left, Marianas Tourism Education Council board member Catherine Perry, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, and Marianas Visitors Authority community projects specialist Jack Aranda display branded sling bags distributed as quiz prizes at MTEC's presentation on Nov. 7, 2019, at Tinian Sr./Jr. High School.

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Vigilant Guard will test Guam emergency responders

BARRIGADA, Guam—The Guam National Guard will host exercise Vigilant Guard 2020 throughout the island on Nov. 18-22. The exercise's "soft start" began yesterday with the anticipation of a super typhoon and normal responses and preparations that follow.

Vigilant Guard 2020 is an exercise program sponsored by the U.S. Northern Command in conjunction with National Guard Bureau to give states and territories the most realistic civil support/defense support to civil authorities exercise possible, by exercising

all aspects of response.

Exercise participants include the Guam National Guard, Guam Homeland Security, federal and local response partners, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Guam Regional Office, the Guam Fire Department, the Guam Police Department, the Port Authority of Guam, Guam Department of Public Health and Social Service, the Department of Education, the Guam Waterworks Authority, the Guam Power Author-

ity, the Mayors Council of Guam, the National Weather Service, five other national guard units, and active duty/Reserve military counterparts from USNORTHCOM, Indo-Pacific Command, the U.S. Army Reserve Pacific, Pacific Air Forces, Joint Region Marianas, Naval Base Guam, the 36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, and 9th Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve.

"We are excited to host this

exercise because it will test the Guard's preparedness as well as help increase our readiness should we be called upon to assist with real-world events that may threaten our island," said Maj. Gen. Esther J.C. Aguirre, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard.

As part of the exercise, there will be heightened emergency response activity islandwide, including helicopter flight, sirens, horns, and loud explosions. Residents and visitors can expect a slight increase in traffic in the central part of the island due to response vehicles.

Residents, visitors and motorists are advised there may be simulated emergency scenarios as part of the exercise at the following locations which include but are not limited to the Astumbo Gym, the Tanguisson Power Plant, the Guam Memorial Hospital, the Port Authority of Guam, the Dededo Transfer Station, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, the Malojloj Transfer Station, Radio Barrigada, F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School, Merizo Elementary School, the Northern Regional Community Health Center, Talofofo

Bay, and the Guard's Readiness Center in Barrigada. The public can expect heightened emergency response activities as the exercise is centered on a super typhoon response and multiple chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear incidents around the island. The main CBRN incident is an explosion at the Port Authority of Guam and the collapse of the "Guahan Hotel." With CBRN consequences there are also medical scenarios that involve medevac units from both the Guam National Guard and the U.S. Navy's HSC 25.

The Guam National Guard will also exercise the Dual Status Command with Task Force West Operation Centers and provide Command and Control on the Defense Support to Civil Authorities operations in support of Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense.

These multiple CBRN incidents will trigger the deployment of CBRN Response Enterprise and Homeland Response Force packages and region 9 and 10 Civil Support Teams.

Besides the CBRN events, the Guam National Guard will work with Guam Homeland Security to ensure the Island is recovered from the super typhoon by providing engineering, transportation, security, and logistical support to the government of Guam.

Members of the National Guard are often called upon to work with local emergency responders, state and federal agencies, and federal military forces during major events occurring in their state, such as natural disasters or large-scale social events. (PR)

Shop for locally made ceramics at Isla Center for the Arts fundraiser

More than 250 pieces of ceramic artwork will be available for sale at Ceramic Celebration XII, a fundraising event for the University of Guam's Isla Center for the Arts that launches today, Nov. 14, and runs until Nov. 22.

The event will display handcrafted ceramics by Professor Lewis S. Rifkowitz,

alumni, and students of the UOG fine arts program. All artwork will be available for sale with proceeds to benefit the Isla Center for the Arts.

The Isla Center for the Arts, through its various art exhibits throughout the year, promotes an increased appreciation of the cultures of the Western Pacific while

also offering the people of the area the opportunity to view art from other areas of the world.

An opening reception for the fundraising event will be held from 6pm to 8pm today, Nov. 14, 2019, in the Isla Center for the Arts gallery, located in House No. 15 of Dean Circle on the

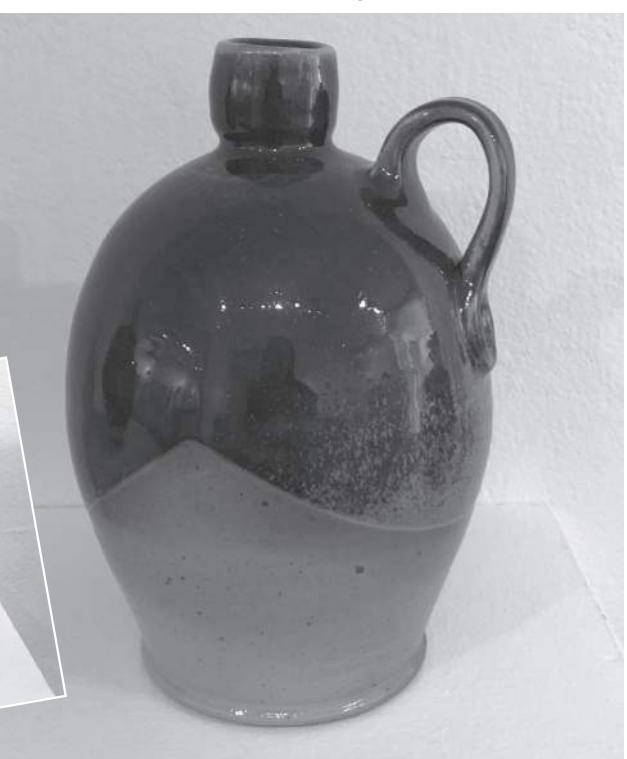
UOG campus. The sale will continue during normal gallery hours through Friday, Nov. 22. Gallery hours are 10am to 5pm from Monday

to Friday and 10am to 2pm on Saturdays.

For more information, call 735-2965 or email islacenter@gmail.com. (PR)



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Ceramics created by alumni, students, and a professor of the UOG fine arts program will be available for sale at the Ceramic Celebration fundraising event starting Nov. 14 at the Isla Center for the Arts.



Flashback A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 14, 2000

House bars cops from confiscating driver's license

Following scrutiny by lawmakers, the House of Representatives yesterday finally cleared legislation that will bar police officers from confiscating driver's license when issuing citation ticket for committing a traffic violation or infraction. The move came after the lower house reviewed existing laws that have given the Department of Public Safety the power to seize the license in order to compel violators to appear in court to pay fines. Critics have slammed the proposal under HB 12-270 as it could deprive authorities a strong means to force these violators to show up for their court summons and actually pay the fines.

First Chamorro woman to obtain Ph.D. honored

Dr. Cecilia Lizama-Salvatore, the first Chamorro woman from the Northern Marianas to earn a doctorate—she got her in Philosophy from the University of Texas in Austin—has been honored by the House leadership, who describes describing her as one of the islands' model citizens. Rep. William S. Torres led members of the House of Representatives in presenting Dr. Salvatore with a distinguished legislative recognition, having completed her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the presti-

gious mainland university last May 2000.

November 14, 2004

Disco night draws crowd of 1,200

The Hyatt Regency Saipan was booming with the sounds that ruled the airwaves in the '70s Saturday night as the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Club 200 attracted about 1,200 people, most of whom were possessed by disco fever. Not even Mother Nature's on and off wet showers were able to drizzle out the crowd, which celebrated while at the same time, contributed to ARC fundraising efforts intended at providing funds for its daily operations as well as relief service to the community. "Awesome is the only word to describe it," said ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh. "It was a wonderful evening and a very great turn out."

Harmful slugs found on Saipan?

Experts are in the process of verifying whether slugs that were spotted on Saipan are of the same type of the harmful pest that was earlier reported to have grown to epidemic proportions on Rota. Isidoro Cabrera, agricultural consultant to the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, allayed fears, however, that the harmful Cuban slug has invaded Saipan. "We're not sure yet if that's the same one on Rota," Cabrera said. He added, though, that CREES has already sent a slug specimen from Saipan to Rota for comparison.

November 14, 2005

3 caught for alleged theft of \$60K equipment

Three suspects in the burglary of a Commonwealth Utilities

Corp.'s Lower Base warehouse fell into the hands of authorities after one of their alleged cohorts surfaced and detailed the incident to police. The resolution of the incident comes more than three months after the suspects allegedly broke into the warehouse and stole over \$60,000-worth of locally and federally funded equipment. Police investigation showed that the suspects hauled 15 cable spools, each weighing over 1,000 lbs, from the warehouse and brought it to a Chinese man at a recycling facility. Police did not indicate if the suspects sold those equipment to the unidentified Chinese or the recycling center or if the recipients masterminded the theft. The suspects also allegedly stole other equipment from the warehouse, including a trailer, which operatives recovered from a Japanese trader in Navy Hill.

'Investigators find bloodstains'

Agents from the Attorney General's Investigative Unit had reportedly found bloodstains at a farm on Tinian where drug case witness John G. Manahane was said to have been murdered and buried, Saipan Tribune learned. A relative of Manahane disclosed to the Saipan Tribune that bloodstains were splattered at a farmhouse occupied by a Filipino worker. Crime scene technicians from the Department of Public Safety Saipan were reportedly summoned a few weeks ago to preserve the bloodstains for laboratory analysis, according to the relative who requested anonymity. The relative also stated that he was told that the farmer suddenly went to the Philippines when the AGIU in August 2005 started aggressively pursuing its investigation into the mysterious disappearance of the 24-year-old Manahane.

Golden Harvest students are victorious in PGFC competition

All participants of Golden Harvest International School won big at the Primary Grade Forensic Conference held last Nov. 2, 2019, at Mount Carmel School.

K-2 DIVISION

DI	1 st	Clea Janel Manangan
HI	2 nd	Amir Zachariah Brantley
	3 rd	Clea Janel Manangan
RF B	5 th	Kiel Vincent Drilon
DUO A	1 st	Jenivier Rose Ruamero
	2 nd	Adam Sureta
	2 nd	Gabriel Frederick Cariaso
	4 th	Kayleigh Zoey Cabanas
	4 th	Precious Aarya Rubia
	5 th	Candice Trasmano
	5 th	Miguel Jasher Angustura
	1 st	Nicko Andrei Fernandez
CSPK	1 st	Gabriel Frederick Cariaso
	2 nd	Precious Aarya Rubia
	2 nd	Kyrie Tehyo Jimenez
	4 th	Candice Trasmano
	2 nd	Kayleigh Zoey Cabanas
	2 nd	Althea Dionn Lauron
	4 th	Jhayrolin Brigham Cruz
	4 th	Jenivier Rose Ruamero
	4 th	Kiel Vincent Drilon
	4 th	Adam Sureta
	4 th	Raizel Gail Atalig
	4 th	Gielyn Manlulu
	4 th	Alleyah Fei Soguilon
	4 th	Alyssa Joy Sublemente

3-5 DIVISION

DI	5 th	Carlyn Juliann Zapata
RF A	5 th	Kaitlyn Alexza Drilon

RF C	1 st	Alexia Aulene Rubia
RF CH	4 th	Vhonn Vincent Flandez
DUO A	2 nd	Arthur Angel Deliva
		Jan Alverne Santos
DUO B	1 st	Stephanie Joyce Sevilla
	2 nd	Juliana Magan Subang
	2 nd	Kazzandra Arielle Drilon
		Clyde Jason Manangan
CSPK	1 st	Mary Audrey Bansil
		Alexia Aulene Rubia
		Arthur Angel Deliva
		Vhonn Vincent Flandez
	2 nd	Jan Alverne Santos
	2 nd	Andre Amour Zapata
		Lindsey Castillo
		Kaitlyn Alexza Drilon
		Stephanie Joyce Sevilla
		Juliana Magan Subang
	3 rd	Sofia Cariaso
		Henna Mae Valdez
		Zoe Althea Ardieta
		Clyde Jason Manangan
		Kierstian Sandico
		Carlyn Juliann Zapata
		Kazzandra Arielle Drilon

Imelda Bautista, the school's PGFC coordinator, said the school makes it a point to have their students participate in these competitions as these are a venue for empowerment that help students develop their strengths, enhance self-esteem, and create their personal sense of fulfillment.

The school's management and administration thanks the parents or guardians, teachers, coaches, including Grace Mallari, Imelda Bautista, Carmela Valdez, Roberto Bagasala, and Jeanne Salcedo, and judges for their involvement to GHIS' endeavors. (PR)



Golden Harvest International School's students, coaches, Primary Grade Forensic Conference coordinator, and principal strike a victorious pose after winning big at the PGFC competition held at Mount Carmel School last Nov. 2, 2019.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Come write in!' this Saturday at JKPL

Writing a novel alone can be difficult, even for seasoned writers. This is where 'Come write in!' comes in.

The Joeten-Kiyu Library has signed up with NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) as a friendly space for

novelists to use when crafting their stories. Come write in! is set for Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019, from 1pm to 3pm. This is free and open to all who are 13 years old and older.

What happens at a write-in? Lots of quiet time to write.

Brief periods to connect with other writers. Word wars (timed writing sessions challenging each other to write the most). Dares (clever prompts to include in your story). And for this one, a raffle of a writing book and some free prizes. Drinks and snacks optional. (PR)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhgov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhgov.net>

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,323,285.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$867,556.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$386,617.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$69,112.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2020.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning November 14, 2019. You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhgov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by March 31, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 31, 2020, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

*February 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
February 13, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota*

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zerie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

*/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director*

/S/ VINNEY ATALIG-HOCOG
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CDA Board of Directors

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Procurement & Supply

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EDITORIAL

DACA should never have come to this

No matter how the U.S. Supreme Court rules in the three consolidated immigration cases heard Tuesday, the fact that the Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals program came down to an up or down vote of six men and three women is itself a lesson in how Washington works—which is to say, not well.

Only the most anti-immigrant extremist believes the 700,000 or so individuals eligible for the DACA program—straight-arrow young people with no criminal record, a high school degree and, in some cases, a record of U.S. military service—should be expelled from this country, the only home many of them have ever known. It's ludicrous. It's preposterous. It's ridiculous. And yet here we are at a place that could easily have been avoided.

For those who may have forgotten, President Barack Obama established DACA seven years ago as a kind of temporary stop-gap measure because of congressional inaction. These are people who are Americans in all but legal status, don't pose a threat and yet could not be fully incorporated into society. So under the program, they had to apply, pay hundreds of dollars in legal fees, undergo a background check and submit their fingerprints. In return, they'd have the right to work in this country legally and be eligible for things like a driver's license and health insurance.

It was the most pragmatic of approaches. It wasn't ideal (congressional action would have been more definitive, obviously), and it didn't solve the totality of the nation's broken immigration system. But for this sliver of the problem, and until a more permanent solution was found, it was a reasonable approach.

Unfortunately, President Donald Trump decided to upend this particular apple cart by seeking to end DACA without sufficient explanation or formal justification, which created this kind of legal conundrum that caused lower courts to side with DACA defenders. The signals were mixed from the start with President Trump mostly interested in using DACA as a bargaining chip with Democrats in Congress and not really caring about the young people in question, particularly given how his anti-immigration rhetoric thrilled core supporters and helped get him elected in the first place.

Indeed, he was back at it again Tuesday with the usual mixed messages. In a posting on Twitter, Trump both condemned the immigrants involved (suggesting some are "tough, hardened criminals") and yet offered to negotiate with Democrats over their future. "If Supreme Court remedies with overturn, a deal will be made with Dems for them to stay!" He tweeted in between customary pronouncements about Joe Biden, the impeachment inquiry and the economy.

Given how skeptical many of the justices seemed Tuesday during 80 minutes of oral arguments, DACA may be overturned as early this spring. Yet, why wait for an adverse Supreme Court ruling to fix the problem?

Congress could still rescue the dreamers and set things right. The U.S. House of Representatives passed such a fix in June with seven Republicans joining Democrats (a truly bipartisan vote by modern standards). It sits helplessly in the U.S. Senate under the iron grip of Majority Leader Mitch McConnell without much chance of action.

See DACA on Next Page

Disenchanted with Washington's political atmosphere, another Republican gives up his seat ...



Shaking down the rich is bad for democracy

Forget whether the math works. (It doesn't.) Expecting billionaires to pay for all the nice things is bad for democracy.

One of the more exhausting rituals of presidential campaign season is the effort to make every new proposal "add up." Sure, it's better that politicians try to come up with a plan to pay for their wish lists. The problem is that the explanations are often a disguise that make the impossible seem possible, even practical. Fake budgets are the tribute that pandering pays to pragmatism.

You could confiscate the wealth of every billionaire and centimillionaire in the country and it wouldn't come close to paying for Medicare for All or the Green New Deal.

But let's pretend that the fantastical (albeit unconstitutional) wealth tax Elizabeth Warren has proposed would work like she claims. Let's also stipulate that the wealthy wouldn't respond by hiding their wealth, moving out of the country or cutting back in the sort of investments the government is utterly incapable of replicating. Let's even concede for argument's sake that Warren could get her plan through Congress and the courts.

Would that be good for the country?

Warren sees the rich as a natural resource that can be mined for its wealth indefinitely. Well, we have a lot of examples of countries that depend on natural resources to pay for everything. Saudi Arabia comes to mind. Oil revenues pay for almost everything. The problem with such societies is what political scientists and economists call "the resource curse" or "the paradox of plenty."

It works like this: When the government doesn't need the tax dollars of a middle class, the middle class has less political power. Virtually everywhere democracy has taken root, starting with England and Holland, it has done so because the middle class demanded representation in return for taxation. That was the heart of the whole "no taxation without representation" thing that led to the American Revolution.

The curse has an economic component as well. The countries that rely on natural resources tend to be poorer because they are less economically dynamic. Think resource-poor Switzerland versus resource-rich Venezuela. Exactly why this widely observed phenomenon works this way is debated, but part of it is surely that the existing stakeholders are hostile toward economic innovation. Another factor: When the state supports you, the incentive to support yourself—never mind be an entrepreneur—is dulled.

By JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast. His Twitter handle is @JonahDispatch.



But the more important part is the democratic disincentive. Think of the old golden rule: Whoever has the gold makes the rules. (This insight apparently comes from noted philosopher Johnny Hart, the cartoonist behind "The Wizard of Id," who coined it in 1965). When the bulk of tax revenues come from the people, or at least from the middle class, the government heeds the middle class. When all of the money comes from the aristocracy, as it did prior to the rise of democratic capitalism, the aristocracy made the rules. When it comes from the rich—aka "the donor class," the "One Percent," etc.—the rich care a lot more about the rule-making.

Today, the top 1 percent make roughly 20 percent of the money in this country and pay almost 40 percent of federal taxes. Meanwhile, 60 percent of U.S. households receive more money from the treasury than they pay into it. But Warren insists it's the rich who aren't paying "their fair share."

Is it any wonder that our political system is so heavily influenced by the top 1 percent? Is it any wonder that the top 1 percent feel so incentivized to get involved in politics? The more skin you have in the game, the more you care about the game.

The left used to understand this. For generations they opposed means-testing Social Security because they wanted it to be a broad American entitlement, not a form of welfare.

Americans are practical. When told that the rich can pay for cool stuff, they say "go for it." When asked if they want the cool stuff so badly that they'd be willing to pay more themselves, they're much stingier.

The danger of promising that the rich can pay for everything is multifaceted. First, it's not true. Second, you don't have to be a student of public choice theory to understand that the more Washington behaves as if it's true, the more the wealthy will intervene in our politics. And third, the more citizens believe that a small group of undeserving wealthy people are denying them nice things, the uglier our politics will become.

The emerging new face of affordable health care

The cost of health care continues to grow, creating serious hardships for patients and families.

In 2017, health care spending accounted for almost 18% of U.S. gross domestic product, or \$10,739 per person. It increased an additional 4.4% last year, nearly twice the inflation rate, according to government estimates.

What can be done to bring these costs under control? And who's best equipped to do it?

If you think Washington holds the key, you might want to think again. While federal government policies can help expand access to care, there is relatively little Washington can do to reduce costs without triggering other ill effects.

Health care is expensive, in part because we expect it to do difficult things. Treatments that didn't exist a decade or two ago are today extending patients' lives beyond what was previously imaginable. But such advancements require substantial investments; saving lives costs money.

Washington's most recent attempt to expand health care coverage while controlling costs—the Affordable Care Act—did little to shield patients from large "copays" and deductibles or to stop premiums from increasing. Some of the ACA's failure is due to its design: Increasing health care usage and reducing costs are opposing goals. However, an equal if not greater problem is the lack of transparency and competition in health care.

To lower costs, there really are two options: provide less care or provide care more efficiently. The first option—rationing—is undesirable. The second—making health care more efficient—can

be accomplished by putting patients at the heart of the system.

Currently, the costs of treatments are hidden from patients. You don't see any prices until you get the bill—or a statement from your insurer showing what it was charged. By making prices transparent, as they are in a furniture or auto showroom, we can stimulate competition, which gradually will help lower prices.

Can this work in real life? Look no further than Lasik eye surgery, used to correct nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. Because Lasik surgery isn't covered by many insurers, Lasik surgeons advertise and compete on price. In the first decade after its inception in the 1990s, the price of such surgery fell by 25 percent, while the quality improved substantially.

Competition based on convenience and affordable pricing is taking hold elsewhere in the health care market as well.

Living up to its slogan of "always low prices," Walmart recently opened its first—of what eventually could be hundreds—Walmart Health clinic next to one of its retail stores in Georgia, offering an array of services from basic primary care, to X-rays, dental and mental health counseling, at low, well-advertised prices. Retail pharmacy chains CVS and Walgreens also are expanding the outpatient health services they offer. Given their success, others are sure to follow.

What this means is that patients in the not-too-distant future will have several choices for their health-care needs—their family doctor, an urgent care facility, a chain store or independent clinic, a hospital or emergency room in certain cases—and will be able to make those choices based on need, cost and convenience.

By CONOR NORRIS

InsideSources.com

Conor Norris is a Catalyst Policy Fellow with the Independent Institute, Oakland, Calif., and research analyst with the Knee Center for the Study of Occupational Regulation at Saint Francis University, Loretto, Pa. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.



This competition, if it isn't stifled by regulators, is what will drive down costs, not the heavy hand of government.

The emerging new model of competitive, affordable health care is drastically different from the current system, where costs are hidden and patients passively follow providers determined by their insurance networks.

While patients must be confident their providers are knowledgeable and their treatments safe and effective, overly stringent regulations can stifle innovation and new, creative ways to deliver care. As Google co-founder Sergey Brin told an interviewer recently, explaining why Alphabet (Google's parent company) isn't heavily involved in health care, "Health is just so heavily regulated ... it's a painful business to be in."

That may be so but change is coming. As Walmart and other innovators are starting to realize, the best way to lower health care costs is by encouraging transparent pricing and competition—and placing the patient at the center of the health care system. The surest way to accomplish this is by getting government out of the way.

'Nationalism' shouldn't be a dirty word

If there's one thing that elite opinion tends to agree about on the left and the right, it's that nationalism is a very bad thing. If anything, this view has become even more entrenched as nationalism has demonstrated its potency in recent years, from the election of Donald Trump to Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

When President Trump first openly embraced the term "nationalist" at a 2018 campaign rally, commentators reacted in horror. Patriotism is about love, nationalism about hate, New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof opined. Trump, insisted Jennifer Rubin of The Washington Post, is "normalizing a hateful political philosophy that is contrary to our deepest-held beliefs."

As I write in my new book, "The Case for Nationalism," this reflexive hostility to the concept is ill-informed and an attempt to deem nationalism a swearword and end all discussion on that basis.

At its most basic, the scholar Azar Gat writes, nationalism is "the doctrine and ideology that a people is bound together in solidarity, fate, and common political aspirations." Historian Anthony Smith described the national ideal as "a belief that all those who shared a common history and culture should be autonomous, united and distinct in their recognized homelands."

When Europe went off the rails in the early 20th century, na-

tionalism as such didn't cause its crash so much as social Darwinism, militarism and the cult of charismatic leadership. The aftermath of World War I added its own poison.

Regardless, American nationalism—which encompasses such diverse, rightly beloved figures as Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt—is not to be feared. As with so many other things about this country, it is more benign than the versions to be found in Europe and elsewhere.

This is true for a number of reasons. First, we are the inheritors of an Anglo-American tradition that has profound respect for the individual and the rule of law and is a fundamental part of our national identity.

The sheet anchor of American sovereignty, the U.S. Constitution, makes it clear that authority ultimately resides with "we the people of the United States." The Constitution also happens to be a durable mechanism of self-government and itself an object of patriotic loyalty and national pride.

Finally, the United States was never infected with the dream of universal empire that Europe inherited from Rome and that has lingered on in differing forms from Charlemagne to the European Union.

The rise of Donald Trump has pushed the left further away

By RICH LOWRY

(c) 2019 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



from respect for nationalistic attitudes and even patriotic symbols. Democrats—and the country—would be much better served if they countered Trump's nationalism with a version of their own.

On his own side of the aisle, Trump has made Republicans more nationalistic. Still, much of the party is quietly uncomfortable with this. If Trump loses in 2020, the party's establishment may try to snap back to its pre-Trump disposition of relative indifference.

Yet, if there's one clear political lesson from the long history of nationalism in this country and elsewhere, it is that a party interested in moving people and selling a program should make some sort of an appeal to it—even if conventional wisdom insists it is foolish and wrong.

The reality of everyday racism

It's hard not to be reminded, on a daily basis, that racism in America is alive and well.

One recent instance to make the news took place on Oct. 26 at a Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant near Chicago. A group of about 20 family members and friends, including several children, were approached by an employee who purportedly asked group member Justin Vahl, "What race are you?"

When Vahl asked the relevance of this information, he says another employee explained, "We have a regular customer here who doesn't want to sit around black people."

Vahl's wife posted an account of the incident, including a photo of the back of the customer who complained. It went viral, an attorney was retained and a press conference was held.

Buffalo Wild Wings fired the two employees. "We take this incident very seriously," a company spokesperson said. "Buffalo Wild Wings values an inclusive environment and has zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind."

The company also promised sensitivity training for its employees.

But for some black people, the most surprising thing about the incident is that anyone was surprised by it.

"Why is everyone so shocked by the racial incident at Buffalo Wild Wings?" asked Dahleen Glanton, a columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*. "This sort of thing happens every day."

I agree. As a 62-year-old black woman who grew up in the South, I can remember the signs explicitly stating "Whites only" or "No coloreds."

Now, in 2019, I live in Oakland, Calif., a liberal progressive community, and I travel extensively in the United States.

In my opinion, the "signs" are still there. They are no longer openly posted, but in any public place they are still apparent.

It may be a glaring look by an employee or a customer. It may be me being invisible in a line and seeing a white person who arrived after me being waited on first. It may be witnessing white folks recoil in an elevator when a black man walks in. It may be witnessing white folks literally cross the street to avoid walking by a black person.

It happens every day, in both subtle and not-so-subtle ways.

Mexico wall as well as substantial cuts to legal immigration. Democrats weren't willing to go that far, and one can scarcely blame them now for being a little skeptical about how serious the administration's latest offer to negotiate.

So there you have it. A group of decent, hardworking people used as a political football, a perfectly workable fix rejected for political gain, a gridlocked Congress and now lawyers debating the minutia of administrative law and executive actions. At its heart, DACA is simply a choice to give greater priority to enforc-

By KIKI MONIFA

Tribune News Service

Kiki Monifa of Oakland, Calif., is editor-in-chief of BlackHistoryEveryday.com. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.



I am not asked my race, but I am sometimes asked about my nationality or the origins of my government name, Akilah Monifa. And while I am pleased with the emergence of sensitivity trainings, and increased awareness about diversity and inclusion in response to racist incidents, clearly it's not enough.

Such training should occur as part of new employee training and recur on an annual basis, at a minimum.

Additionally, all places of business should have a sign posted in multiple languages: "We value inclusiveness and have zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind on any basis."

And then they should act like it.

ing immigration law against bad people (lawbreakers, for example) and leaving alone the good who, by any reasonable measure, deserve to have a chance to be useful, productive citizens.

No one can argue the common sense of that, but, apparently, they can argue the legal framework that allowed DACA to be created in the first place while ignoring the harm that program's abrupt end will cause hundreds of thousands of young people.

DACA

From Page 10

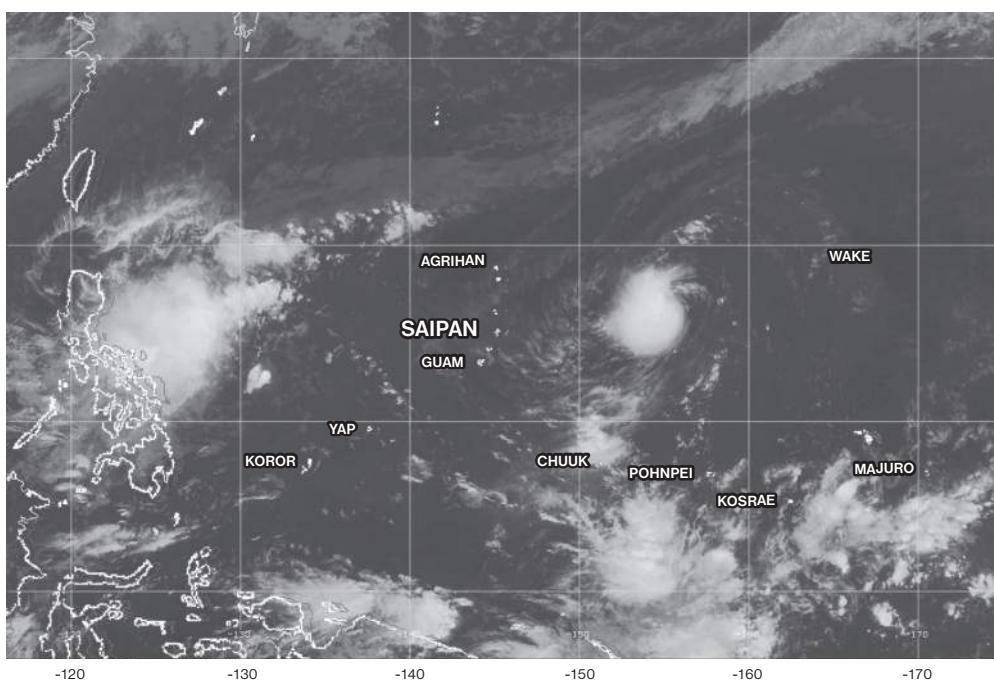
Last year there were at least two other attempts at a compromise that involved greater funding for border security in return for fixing DACA. Trump nixed them. And previous to that there were others including a pie-in-the-sky plan pushed by Trump that provided citizenship for dreamers, billions toward a U.S.-

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
88°	76°	88°	77°	88°
76°	76°	87°	77°	87°
77°	88°	76°	87°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:02 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Quiet weather persists over the area with just a few showers nearby as a low-level ridge drifts westward. TS Fengshen continues on its WNW approach toward the far northern Mariana Islands. Another, but weaker, circulation is moving westward to the north of Chuuk.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86°	/	76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86°	/	81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64°	/	55°
Beijing	Sunny	50°	/	36°
Hong Kong	Sunny	87°	/	73°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84°	/	72°
London	Rain	46°	/	37°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	71°	/	57°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Melbourne	Cloudy	64°	/	48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80°	/	75°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	47°	/	38°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	57°	/	46°
Paris	Showers	46°	/	36°
Busan	Sunny	61°	/	52°
Rome	Rain	59°	/	55°
Salem	Showers	48°	/	41°
San Francisco	Cloudy	58°	/	51°
Seoul	Showers	57°	/	37°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	61°	/	45°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	48°	/	38°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS	
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:	
■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone	
■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone	
■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:29 AM	HIGH TIDE	-	-0.28
9:17 AM	LOW TIDE	-	1.74
2:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	-	0.96
7:53 PM	LOW TIDE	-	1.72

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:17 AM	5:44 PM	
Friday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM	
Saturday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM	
Sunday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM	
Monday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM	

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:28 AM	7:09 PM
Friday	-	8:24 AM	8:00 PM
Saturday	-	9:20 AM	8:54 PM
Sunday	-	10:17 AM	9:52 PM
Monday	-	11:12 AM	10:51 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:15am 9:55am Daily				UA174 7:30am 8:10am Daily			
UA105 6:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4				UA104 4:50pm 5:30pm 2, 4			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:20am 6:30am Daily				7C3452 9:35pm 2:30am+1 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
				7C3452 10:05pm 2:30am+1 3			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:05am 6:05am Daily				OZ6233 8:00am 1:20pm 2, 4, 6			
OZ626 2:10am 6:10am 1				OZ623 8:55am 2:30pm 1, 3, 5, 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:25am 3, 7				7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 4, 5, 6				OZ625 7:30pm 1:00am+1 7			
7C3403 4:35am 8:35am Daily				TW307 7:45pm 1:05am+1 Daily			
OZ6243 3:20pm 7:10pm 2, 4, 6				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
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JD396 7:30am 12:05pm 1							



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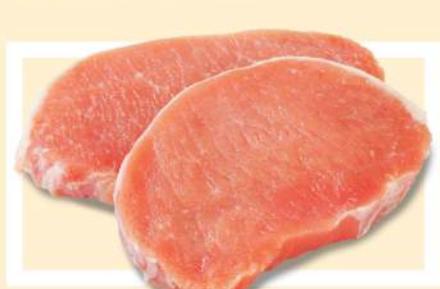
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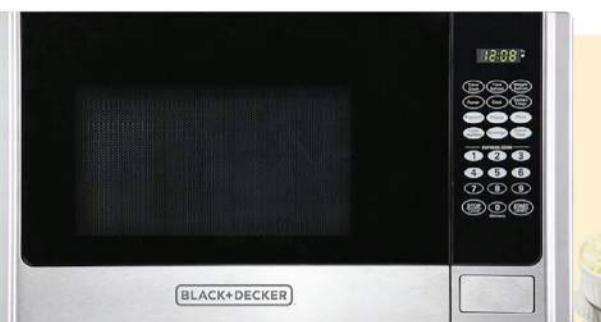
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Business

Lunch and dinner buffets at Mermaid Restaurant

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hit two birds with one stone and take advantage of lunch and dinner buffets available every day at the newly opened Mermaid Restaurant located on Middle Road across the Mobil gas station for only \$12.

Aside from the affordability, Mermaid Restaurant is the only restaurant on island that serves unlimited Hong Kong-style milk tea, milk shakes, and scrumptious desserts like pastries and cookies and ice cream.

The Hong Kong-style milk teas cost only \$3 and comes with taro or black pearls and are served fresh as they cook their own pearls.

Their buffet spread carries Chamorro, Filipi-



BEA CABRERA
Pastries are unlimited at Mermaid Restaurant's lunch and dinner buffets for \$12.

no, Chinese, American, and Italian food items including freshly made pizza and their cakes and pastries are also freshly baked by their in-house chefs.

According to owner Peter Fong, the concept of the restaurant was borne out of his observations around the island.

"Whenever my family and I go out to eat, we always go for buffet style but more often than not, hotel buffets are good from appetizers to desserts, but are in the high-price range. On the other hand, there are buffets in the low-price range but doesn't much have food items that caters to children especially pastries for desserts," he said.

"Mermaid Restaurant is the combination of all that—a good buffet selection from appetizers, soups, main dishes to desserts, and it won't break one's wallet because both lunch and dinner buffets go for only \$12 and children under 2 years old and below 1.2 meters (3'9") tall are free," he added.

Mermaid Restaurant also wants to establish itself as a place where people can come to enjoy a good time.

"This restaurant is for everyone—family, school children, and even professionals and employees... anyone can enjoy our buffet and *ala carte* menu especially our coffee, and two kinds of milk tea..." Fong said.

"We are also open to company meetings and family celebrations as we have three VIP rooms



BEA CABRERA
Mermaid Restaurant's milk tea taro are freshly made and from authentic ingredients imported from Hong Kong.



BEA CABRERA
Mermaid Restaurant owner Peter Fong and his business partner.

that they can reserve. We also have a big screen in the middle of the restaurant that plays movies and can also be used for karaoke," Fong added.

Since Mermaid Restaurant has an in-house baker, people can avail of their ready-to-order cakes and pastries or have one made via order.

Fong said they named the restaurant Mermaid Restaurant to give an island feel and is

relatable for everybody. "Aside from being family friendly, I would like to call ourselves as community friendly with our good food and reasonable prices."

Mermaid Restaurant is open from Monday to Sunday 11am to 10:30pm. Lunch buffet is served from 11am to 2pm and dinner buffet is served from 5:30pm to 8:30pm.

McDonald's workers say anti-harassment efforts fall short

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A former McDonald's employee is suing the company and one of its Michigan franchisees over sexual harassment.

On Tuesday, Jenna Ries filed a class-action lawsuit against the fast-food chain. She's one of at least 50 workers who have filed separate sexual harassment charges against McDonald's with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or in state courts over the past three years.

The lawsuit comes on the heels of McDonald's firing its CEO last week for having a consensual rela-

tionship with an employee.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the labor group Fight for \$15 are among those backing the plaintiffs. The Time's Up Legal Defense Fund, which was founded in response to the #MeToo movement, is also providing legal support. Ries is seeking at least \$5 million in damages for herself and other affected workers.

Sharyn Tejani, the director of the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund, said low-wage fast food workers can lose shifts or even be fired if they report harassment to a manager. Former CEO Steve Easterbrook, on the other hand, is still eligible for millions of dollars in salary, incentive payments

and stock options. McDonald's said Easterbrook violated company policy forbidding managers from having romantic relationships with direct or indirect subordinates.

Ries, 32, said the problems in the Mason, Michigan, restaurant began soon after she started working there in the fall of 2017 and continued for more than a year. She alleges that the general manager ignored her co-worker's repeated harassment of her and her colleagues, including groping, physical assault and verbal epithets.

Ries said she often cried on the way to work and felt physically ill, but she needed the job to pay her bills. Eventually she was transferred

to another location, but the co-worker who allegedly harassed her remained at the original location.

"It's definitely difficult for me to come forward, but I want to encourage other people," Ries told The Associated Press. "I want McDonald's to recognize that they have a problem and make sure this doesn't happen to others."

A phone number for the franchisee, MLMLM Corp., was disconnected Tuesday morning.

Ries said she finds it ironic that McDonald's fired Easterbrook last week for violating a policy forbidding relationships between supervisors and their subordinates.

"They barely have a policy

against sexual harassment," Ries said.

McDonald's and its franchisees are required to comply with state and federal anti-discrimination laws. Beyond that, McDonald's generally claims that workers at franchised restaurants are not its employees and doesn't spell out how harassment claims should be handled by franchisees.

Eve Cervantez, one of Ries' attorneys, said she will argue that McDonald's is responsible for employees at franchised restaurants because the company exerts so much control over franchise operations and employees consider themselves McDonald's workers.

Nation

Court rules against warrantless searches of phones, laptops

BOSTON (AP)—A federal court in Boston has ruled that warrantless U.S. government searches of the phones and laptops of international travelers at airports and other U.S. ports of entry violate the Fourth Amendment.

Tuesday's ruling in U.S. District Court came in a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier Foundation on behalf of 11 travelers whose smartphones and laptops were searched without individualized suspicion at U.S. ports of entry.

ACLU attorney Esha Bhandari said the ruling strength-

ens the Fourth Amendment protections of international travelers who enter the United States every year.

The ACLU describes the searches as "fishing expeditions." They say border officers must now demonstrate individualized suspicion of contraband before they can search a traveler's electronic device.

The government has vigorously defended the searches as a critical tool to protect America.

The number of electronic device searches at U.S. ports of entry has increased significantly, the ACLU said. Last year, the government conduct-

ed more than 33,000 searches, almost four times the number from just three years prior.

Documents filed as part of the lawsuit claim the scope of the warrantless searches has expanded to assist in enforcement of tax, bankruptcy, environmental and consumer protection laws, gathering intelligence and advancing criminal investigations.

The court documents also said agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement consider requests from other government agencies in determining whether

to search travelers' electronic devices. They added that agents are searching the electronic devices of not only targeted individuals but their associates, friends and relatives.

Requests for comment from Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security were not immediately returned Tuesday.

Jessie Rossman, a staff attorney at ACLU's Massachusetts chapter, said the ruling is a victory for constitutional protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

"The court said today that suspicionless searches at the border of cell phones and laptops violate the Fourth Amendment," Rossman said.

Rossman said two of the plaintiffs—Ghassan and Nadia Alasaad—were stopped as they tried to re-enter the U.S. after a visit to Canada. Both are U.S. citizens and live in Massachusetts.

Rossman said Nadia Alasaad felt uncomfortable handing over passwords because she wears a head covering as part of her religious beliefs.

She asked that a female officer review her phone because it contained photos of her and her daughters without their headscarves. Alasaad said she was told that would take a few more hours.

The couple, who had already been delayed several hours, ultimately decided to leave their phones—which they did not have returned to them for 15 days, according to Rossman.

Ten of the plaintiffs in the case were U.S. citizens. One was a permanent legal resident.

ACROSS THE NATION

Trump claims credit for economy, jobs in New York speech

NEW YORK (AP)—Despite a slowing economy, President Donald Trump declared Tuesday that the United States was enjoying a "boom the likes of which we have never seen before!" Trump told the Economic Club of New York that "we have delivered on our promises—and exceeded our expectations by a very wide margin." His remarks were delivered to an audience of powerbrokers and affluent business leaders, but his political future may depend on whether voters in the Midwest and Sunbelt believe that he has fought for their own financial well-being.

The president faces reelection next year in a relatively healthy economy, yet student debt, high medical costs and rising inequality have given Democrats seeking the presidency inroads to say that only a privileged few have genuinely benefited from the Trump era. "Our democracy has been hijacked by the rich and the powerful. They make it work for themselves, and they leave everyone else behind," Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren told a major Democratic Party fundraiser and dinner in Iowa earlier this month.

Man locked up 11 years for robberies he didn't do walks free

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who spent 11 years in prison for a series of Los Angeles armed robberies he didn't commit was exonerated Tuesday after prosecutors agreed he had been wrongfully convicted. A courtroom erupted in applause as Ruben Martinez Jr. was found innocent and walked free from Los Angeles Superior Court. A jubilant Martinez, 49, said his prayers had been answered and he was

not a bitter man. He thanked his wife, Maria, for not only standing by him but pursuing his freedom vigorously. "I did not do this time by myself," Martinez said after the short court hearing. "My family did time. My wife did time with me, did the 11 years with me. I couldn't do it on my own, on my own strength. It was God's strength that got me through this." District Attorney Jackie Lacey apologized to Martinez for the injustice that led to a 47-year prison sentence. Lacey said a "series of unfortunate and ultimately tragic circumstances" led to the conviction and it was her job to right the wrong.

USC campus left shaken by 9 student deaths since August

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The first death occurred in late August, two days before classes began, when an incoming freshman was struck by a car while walking on a freeway near the University of Southern California. In the more than 2 months since, eight other USC students have died—three by suicide, others by unknown means. The string of fatalities has left students and faculty at the prestigious university shaken and struggling for answers. The Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday that the latest fatality—a 27-year-old student found dead Monday in an off-campus apartment—came days after administrators sent letters to students and parents about the series of deaths. "There is a great deal of speculation about the causes of these deaths and most are being attributed to suicide. This is not correct," the Times quoted one of the letters as saying. While officials say three of the deaths are confirmed suicides, the causes of the others are not known or haven't been released. The latest case is still under investigation.



In this Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018 file photo, travelers check their phones at Indianapolis International Airport in Indianapolis.

Border wall opponents in court trying to stop construction

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A federal appeals court heard arguments Tuesday on a bid to halt military funding for construction of President Donald Trump's border wall as the pace of construction raises questions about whether time is running out for the administration's critics.

The administration has begun work on 129 miles (206 kilometers) of Pentagon-funded projects in California, Arizona and New Mexico since the Supreme Court ruled in July that construction can proceed during a legal challenge.

The Pentagon has diverted \$6.1 billion to pay for construction since Trump declared a national emergency on the border in February. Trump says he plans to have about 500 miles (800 kilometers) built by the end of his term in 2020. As of Nov. 1,

about 78 miles (125 kilometers) were completed to replace existing barriers.

Dror Ladin, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, urged a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to rule as quickly as possible because the administration was moving quickly in places including Organ Pipe National Monument in Arizona.

He said huge amounts of water are being drawn to build the wall with a great deal of cement. "There's bulldozers and really heart-wrenching pictures from the border that are being sent to me every day," Ladin said.

Ladin said in an interview that sections of wall in dispute should be torn down if the ACLU prevails. The judges—two appointed by President Bill Clinton and

one by Trump—gave no clues to how they were leaning. They did not say when they will issue a written decision.

The ACLU, which is repre-

senting the Sierra Club and the Southern Border Communities Coalition, contends that Trump flagrantly ignored the wishes of Congress. Attorneys for the Justice Department said Trump properly exercised his authority to transfer money between departments.

Attorneys for the state of California and the U.S. House of Representatives appeared before the judges to argue in favor of the ACLU's position. The president's national emergency spawned several lawsuits, but the case argued Tuesday is the most closely watched. Another appeals court panel blocked work on Pentagon-funded projects in California, Arizona and New

Mexico but the Supreme Court granted the administration's emergency request to let it proceed. The projects rely on \$2.5 billion in Pentagon counterdrug money.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper transferred an additional \$3.6 billion designated for military construction in

September to pay for about 175 miles (280 kilometers) of wall in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The administration and the ACLU are scheduled to argue before a federal judge in Oakland, California, next week over whether those projects should also be stopped.

As it seeks to accelerate construction, the administration faces a potentially thorny problem in Texas because much of the land is privately owned and must be purchased, potentially by confiscation.

Asia

Japan, US: 3-way ties with S. Korea are key to security

TOKYO (AP)—The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley, agreed with Japanese officials Tuesday that three-way cooperation with South Korea is key to regional security and that an intelligence sharing pact between Tokyo and Seoul should not be scrapped.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said he told Milley that discord among the three countries would only destabilize the region and benefit North Korea, China and Russia.

"We shared a view that Japan-U.S.-South Korea cooperation is more important now than ever, as we discussed the latest situation related to North Korea, including the North's latest launch of ballistic missiles," Motegi said.

He and Milley also agreed on the importance of the Japan-South Korea intelligence sharing pact. Motegi added that Milley promised to convey that message to South Korea during his upcoming visit there.

South Korea has announced plans to scrap the General Security of Military Information Agreement, or GSOMIA, amid disputes with Japan over trade and wartime history.

The deal, which is set to expire later this month, symbolizes the Asian neighbors'

security cooperation with Washington in the face of North Korea's nuclear and missile threat and China's growing influence. U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has been exerting last-



Milley

Kang Kyung-wha, at a G-20 foreign ministers' meeting next week in central Japan.

Relations between Japan and South Korea in recent months have been their lowest in decades.

Japan has denounced South Korean court rulings that ordered Japanese companies to compensate elderly South Koreans for forced labor during World War II, insisting that all compensation issues were settled by a 1965 treaty normalizing relations between the two countries.

South Korea accuses Tokyo of ignoring its people's suffering under Japan's 1910-1945 brutal colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, and criticized Japan of tightening trade controls on key technology exports to South Korea and the downgrading of its trade status as a retaliation to the wartime compensation rulings.

Motegi said Tuesday that South Korea's decision to scrap GSOMIA in retaliation for Japan's trade controls was a "complete misjudgment of the current regional security environment and is extremely regrettable." He said export controls and security issues should not be linked.

Kono has expressed a willingness to meet with his South Korean counterpart, Jeong Kyeong-doo, on the sidelines of regional meeting in Thailand later this week.

Separately, Japanese media said Tuesday that Motegi may also meet with his South Korean counterpart,

Air quality sinks to 'severe' in haze-shrouded New Delhi

NEW DELHI (AP)—A thick gray haze blanketed India's capital on Tuesday, with authorities attempting to reduce the pollution by sprinkling water to settle dust and banning some construction.

The air quality index exceeded 400, considered "severe" and about eight times the recommended maximum, according to the state-run Central Pollution Control Board.

Buildings and monuments in New Delhi were largely obscured by the haze and residents complained of health effects.

"We can't breathe properly. My eyes are burning," said Urmila Devi, who lives in Ghaziabad, one of the capital's most polluted areas.

Favorable winds had briefly halved the level of pollutants, but winds blowing from the northwest carried air-borne particles from burning crops in Punjab and Haryana states to New Delhi, leading again to high levels of pollution, according to the government's air

quality monitoring system, SAFAR.

Air pollution in northern India peaks in the winter due to smoke from agricultural fires. Farmers say they are unfairly criticized and have no choice but to burn stubble to prepare their fields for the next crop.

The smoke from fields mixes with vehicle emissions and construction dust, making New Delhi the world's most-polluted capital.

Rising pollution levels have also irked foreign visitors, with some saying they plan to cut short their trips because of health concerns.

"We are in the capital of India. The government should put more effort into tackling this problem," said Rijil Odamvalappil of Abu Dhabi, who was visiting New Delhi with his wife.

Some residents say the pollution is so bad that it should be the most important issue for the government.

Pollution controls have been imposed, such as sprinkling water from high-rises

and banning some construction to settle or avoid dust, but the capital's poor air quality has continued amid calls for the government to do more to address the root causes.

Restrictions on private vehicles meant to reduce emissions were relaxed on Monday and Tuesday for the 550th anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion.

Doctors in the city of 20 million people say many of their patients are complaining of ailments related to the filthy air they breathe.

New Delhi's chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, has made fervent appeals on Twitter and in newspaper advertisements for residents to help tackle the pollution problem.

India's top court last week asked the city government, its neighboring states and the federal government to work together to improve air quality.

World Health Organization data released last year showed India had 10 of the world's 20 most polluted cities.

World

Israel targets Islamic Jihad leader



Palestinians chant angry slogans as they carry the body of Islamic Jihad commander, Bahaa Abu el-Atta, who was killed with his wife by an Israeli missile strike on their home, during his funeral in Gaza City, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019. AP

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel on Tuesday targeted two senior commanders from the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad, killing one in the Gaza Strip and missing the second in Syria as it stepped up its battle against Iran and its proxies across the region.

The death of Bahaa Abu el-Atta and his wife as they slept in their home in eastern Gaza set off the heaviest fighting in months between Israel and Islamic Jihad, an Iranian-backed militant group that is even more hard-line than Gaza's Hamas rulers.

Gaza militants fired scores of rockets into Israel throughout the day, some reaching as far as Tel Aviv, while Israeli warplanes responded with a series of airstrikes on Islamic Jihad targets. Eight others were killed, including at least seven militants.

"Whoever thinks that it is possible to hurt our citi-

zens and evade our long arm is mistaken," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a meeting of top security officials at Israeli military headquarters in Tel Aviv.

He described Abu el-Atta as a "ticking time bomb" and "the main instigator of terrorism" from Gaza, responsible for many rocket attacks on Israel and planning more.

He said the killing had been approved 10 days earlier, and that Israel had waited for the "optimal conditions" to hit him while minimizing civilian casualties. He said Israel was not interested in escalation but warned: "This could take time."

Egypt, which frequently mediates between Israel and Gaza militants, was working to de-escalate tensions, according to officials in Cairo. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

In a possible sign the fighting could be brief, Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group did not take part in Tuesday's rocket fire. Although larger and more powerful than Islamic Jihad, Hamas is also more pragmatic. With Gaza's economy in tatters, it appears to have little desire for another round of fighting with Israel.

Netanyahu has repeatedly said in speeches in recent weeks that Iran, Israel's archenemy, is becoming increasingly aggressive across the region and vowed to strike back.

Iran has forces based in Syria, Israel's northern neighbor and supports Hezbollah militants in Lebanon.

In Gaza, it supplies Islamic Jihad with cash, weapons and expertise. Netanyahu has also claimed that Iran is using Iraq and far-off Yemen to plan attacks against Israel. Hamas also receives some support from Iran.

WORLD BRIEFS

Venezuelan leader puts militias on patrol ahead of protests

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro is beefing up patrols by civilian militias across the nation as political rivals call for mass demonstrations against him. Maduro in a national broadcast Tuesday ordered the nation's 3.2 million militia members to patrol Venezuela's streets.

He gave the command seated between the nation's top-ranking military leaders. The heightened patrols overlap with a Saturday protest called by opposition lawmaker Juan Guaidó, who has led a nearly year-long campaign to oust Maduro with

backing from the U.S. and 50 other nations. Guaidó has not managed to rally large demonstrations in recent months. However, a wave of political unrest has struck several Latin American nations, and Bolivian socialist leader Evo Morales abruptly resigned Sunday. Maduro says the same "imperialist" forces that undermined Bolivia's president seek to oust him.

Belarus' leader visits Austria, pushes for closer EU ties

VIENNA (AP)—Belarus' authoritarian leader says his nation is hoping for better ties with the European Union. President Alexander Lukashenko made the com-

ments Tuesday after talking to Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen during a visit to that country. Lukashenko said Austria could help normalize Belarus-EU relations. He also hailed Austria as "a key and reliable partner" for Belarus. During his quarter century rule of Belarus, Lukashenko has shown little tolerance for dissent and independent media. Belarus has relied heavily on Russian financial support, but Lukashenko has recently sought to mend ties with the West. The U.S. and the European Union have lifted some sanctions they imposed on Belarus, while Lukashenko has sought to improve his nation's human rights record.

Environment

HINDOLVESTON, England (AP) — The ghosts are all around the gently rolling farmlands of eastern England. But you have to know where to look.

These are not the kind of phantoms that scare or haunt — they are ghost ponds. Over the years, landowners buried them, filling in wetlands so they had more land for planting crops and other needs, or let their ponds fade away with neglect. Along with those ponds, they erased entire ecosystems — and contributed to the decline of wetlands worldwide.

The result: an array of environmental calamities, ranging from rising floods to species hurtling toward extinction.

There are some who are trying to reclaim these lost water-bodies. In eastern England, a motley team of farmers, university researchers and conservationists is digging into the region's barley and wheat fields to turn back the clock.

With chain saws, an excavator and plenty of sweat, it takes just a few hours to resurrect one dying pond near Hindolveston, a thousand-year-old village not far from the North Sea. They fell trees and shrubs, then start digging until reaching their goal: an ancient pond bottom that once supported insects, aquatic plants and the birds and animals that

feed on them.

"As soon as they get water and light, they just spring to life," says Nick Anema, a farmer in nearby Dereham who has restored seven ponds on his property. "You've got frogs and toads and newts, all the insects like mayflies, dragonflies, damselflies. ... You can't really beat a pond."

But the battle for the wetlands is a struggle. While efforts are under way to stem losses and regain some of what's been lost, wetlands around the world continue to be filled in and plowed over.

■■■

Almost 90% of the world's wetlands disappeared over the past three centuries, according to the Ramsar Convention, an organization formed around a 1971 treaty to protect wetlands. And the losses have accelerated since the 1970s.

The consequences are profound — wetland-dependent species threatened with extinction, more severe flooding and the release of huge amounts of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

Climate change threatens to worsen the problem. Warmer temperatures and changing rainfall patterns can trigger drought, leading to more pumping of water reserves that would otherwise feed surface wetlands, scientists say.

"We now know the value of wetlands, and we know with increasing precision how many wetlands we're losing. The next step is for the gov-

ernments to act," says Royal Gardner, director of the Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy at Stetson University in Florida.

■■■

A few hours of heavy rain in North Dakota are all it takes to transform the dry, cracked earth of the prairie into thousands upon thousands of pocket-sized wetlands.

The rain pools in shallow depressions known as prairie potholes and quickly flushes out insects from beneath the soil.

Each pothole becomes a haven for a pair of ducks. Two blue-winged teals dabble on one pothole. On the next pothole are two more ducks, then two more and so on to the horizon.

But to farmers, these wetlands carved into the earth by glaciers some 10,000 years ago can be an adversary. They bog down tractors and can kill young crops, leaving patches of lifeless stalks.

Some farmers steer around them, planting in swirling patterns to avoid wet areas. Other times, the wetlands are removed, often to make way for corn.

Despite their mind-boggling numbers — several million potholes are spread across a region that covers portions of five states and three Canadian provinces — these wetlands are steadily blinking out. One by one, they're being drained or plowed under.

Only human-made wet-

lands buck the trend toward global decline. Rice paddies, reservoirs and agricultural stock ponds all increased in acreage since the 1970s, according to Ramsar.

Barton Schott, a third-generation farmer in the small community of Kulm, North Dakota, recently installed networks of perforated pipes beneath some of his fields to drain off the standing water. He must offset the losses under federal regulations, installing a berm across a low area in different field to create a small pond.

The guiding principle is to have "no net loss" of U.S. wetlands. A similar tactic has been adopted in China.

Yet in both nations, scientists are concerned that the approach papers over significant differences between natural wetlands and those created by humans. That's

because constructing ponds or reservoirs with water year-round doesn't fulfill the same ecological role as the smaller wetlands they replace.

"People brag about the fact that there's been no net loss. But what they've done is destroy natural wetlands and created artificial ones," says Stuart Pimm, a Duke University professor.

■■■

Since the start of the 20th century, 75% of the United Kingdom's ponds have been lost.

Nick Anema describes how his view of farming differs markedly from his father's, who regarded the natural world as an obstacle to overcome. For Nick Anema, farming and preservation are inextricably linked.

In 2013, he saw an advertisement seeking farmers who would be willing

to have ghost ponds on their property excavated as part of a research project.

He suspected a low point in one of his fields fit the description of a ghost pond and a check of old maps confirmed it. By the time the excavation wrapped up, water already was pooling at the bottom.

After ghost ponds are dug out, seeds from long-buried water plants come to life, including in one case a pond on Anema's farm that had been filled in an estimated 150 years ago. And as the plants come back, so do the insects that depend on them, followed by fish and birds that eat the insects.

"They've done just what we hoped," says Carl Sayer, a researcher at University College London. "They're wonderful, healthy, vibrant ponds."



AP

Helen Greaves, PhD Student, UCL Pond Restoration Research Group, removes trees from a former wetland on farmland near Hindolveston, Dereham, eastern England, on Friday, Sept. 13, 2019. In the wetlands of eastern England, farmers, university researchers and conservationists are digging into the region's barley and wheat fields to turn back the clock. They seek out patches of muddy earth that hint at lost ponds lurking beneath.

Bringing the world's buried wetlands back from the dead

By MATTHEW BROWN and JAMES BROOKS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Helen Greaves, PhD Student, UCL Pond Restoration Research Group, takes samples at a wetland on farmland near Hindolveston, Dereham, eastern England, on Friday, Sept. 13, 2019. Almost 90 percent of the world's wetlands disappeared over the past three centuries, according to the Ramsar Convention, an organization formed around a 1971 treaty to protect wetlands.

Life & Style

LOS ANGELES (AP)—R&B crooner John Legend has been named the Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine.

The Grammy-winning singer known for his silky-smooth vocals was revealed as this year's winner Tuesday night on NBC's "The Voice." He serves as a coach on the singing competition series with Gwen Stefani, Kelly Clarkson and Blake Shelton.

Shelton, who was named Sexiest Man Alive in 2017, announced Legend's honor on "The Voice." The country singer then handed Legend

some short shorts with be-dazzled letters "EGOTSM" to signify the singer's many honors: an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony and now, Sexiest Man Alive.

Legend tells the magazine in an issue out Friday the honor comes with some pressure after following Idris Elba, who was last year's winner. He jokes it "is not fair and is not nice to me!"

The 40-year-old Legend is a 10-time Grammy winner. He scored an Oscar in 2015 for co-writing the song "Glory" from the film "Sel-

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'We love you, Alex!' Contestant on 'Jeopardy!' moves Trebek

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek got choked up when he read the final response from a Brown University student who wanted to show support as he battles pancreatic cancer. The emotional moment came in Monday's episode when Trebek read Dhruv Gaur's final answer. Instead of writing a correct response, Gaur wrote "We love you, Alex!" He substituted a heart in place of the word love. Trebek's voice cracked slightly as he thanked Gaur, telling him, "That's very kind." Gaur was eliminated in the semi-finals for the Tournament of Champions. He tweeted that Trebek had just "shared with us that he was reentering treatment" and "we were all hurting for him so badly." Trebek announced in September he had resumed chemotherapy. The Final Jeopardy! clue had sought the title

Screening of Polanski movie to go ahead despite allegation

PARIS (AP)—The Paris screening of a new French-Italian film "An Officer and a Spy" is going ahead despite a new allegation that its director Roman Polanski raped a woman decades ago. Tuesday's screening will be attended by the film's crew. French media say several interviews with actors from the movie have been canceled, however, including with Jean Dujardin and Louis Garrel. The French daily *Le Parisien* on Friday reported claims from a French woman in her early 60s that she was assaulted at age 18 in 1975 by Polanski at his chalet in Gstaad, Switzerland. Polanski "firmly contests" the allegation, his lawyer said. Polanski has been a fugitive from the U.S. for more than four decades since pleading guilty to a sex offense.

"The art of multi-tasking,"

of a groundbreaking 1890 expose of poverty in New York City slums.



People magazine names John Legend as 2019 Sexiest Man Alive

ma." He won a Tony Award for his co-producer work on "Jitney" and took home an Emmy as a producer on NBC's live version of "Jesus Christ Superstar," a project in which he also played the role of Jesus.

Legend has two children with model-television host-cookbook author Chrissy Teigen.

Other recent winners include Dwayne Johnson, Chris

Hemsworth, Adam Levine, Channing Tatum and David Beckham.

"I want to thank Blake Shelton," Legend said. "I observed every move he made, every utterance that came from his mouth and I think some of it rubbed off on me."

Legend said his wife is proud of him.

"I've finally impressed her," he said.

The couple's children? Not so much. Teigen posted a video of the reveal of their daughter asking to turn off "The Voice" and go back to a movie. Teigen titled the post "The kids ... do not care."

AP
This Feb. 24, 2019 file photo shows John Legend at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

New baby and new music: Ricky Martin hosts the Latin Grammys

NEW YORK (AP)—Between a household with four children, the release of a new single and his debut as host of the Latin Grammys, Ricky Martin hasn't gotten much sleep lately. But it's all good.

The Puerto Rican star is excited to perform his latest song "Cántalo" with Residente and Bad Bunny at Thursday's awards ceremony, and is also ready to have fun as the show's master of ceremonies along with actresses Roselyn Sánchez and Paz Vega. He is also preparing a new album and tour in 2020. All of this while taking care of a newborn (Renn), a 10-month-old baby (Lucía) and his 11-year-old twins (Matteo and Valentino)

Martin, 47, said with a laugh in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "I can't complain. I am surrounded by people that I love that help me run the house. Obviously, I have my husband (Jwan Yosef) who is wonderful; I have grandmothers that are super involved and that provide all the love in the world. ... As they say, it takes a village."

And as a hands-on dad, he says he can do it all as long as he's with his family: "Everyone travels to Las Vegas and everyone goes on tour."

Martin opened the first Latin Grammy Awards in 2000 singing a tribute to Tito Puente with Celia Cruz and Gloria Estefan in a memorable performance. On Thursday, he

hopes to leave a mark again when he performs "Cántalo," a song that uses sounds from the archives of the iconic record label Fania.

Martin knew he had something special in his hand, as well as a "big responsibility" when Fania allowed him to dig into its treasures. He decided to call on Residente and Bad Bunny, and they got together in the studio to "make magic," as he said.

The result is a three-and-a-half-minute song that fuses salsa, jazz and some bossa nova, with some urban and tropical rhythms.

"It's a celebration," Martin said. "It's a message of freedom in the sense that the only thing we want is for my people to

sing—to sing and to liberate and to be happy and to give the love, which is so needed these days."

Though this is his first time hosting the Latin Grammys, he's not fazed by the responsibility.

"To be honest, I have to say that I feel very protected, first of all because I am working with a great production, people that had been doing this for many years and that are the gurus of the industry. ... (And) also I am with Roselyn Sánchez and Paz Vega, who have done this before," he explained.

Plus, he is Latin Grammy veteran. He has won three awards and was celebrated as Person of the Year in 2006, a moment he recalls among his most memorable.

Family enjoys mother-in-law just fine from a distance

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is contemplating a move to the small Southern town my husband and I have called home for more than 10 years. She's a vibrant, well-to-do Southern lady with many friends and family in the big city where she has lived her entire life. The problem is, I really don't want her to live near us. We have five children whom she constantly tries to tell me how to raise, and I'm not sure she even likes the children.

I don't know why she wants to make this drastic move because she ridicules us when we relocated. For that matter, she ridicules us about everything we do. (We are relatively normal, boring people.) My husband has stayed quiet about the situation.

How can I tell her we would prefer she stay in the big city without hurting her feelings? We visit her often, and she visits us. This arrangement has worked for many years.

LOVING OUR QUIET WAY OF LIFE

DEAR LOVING: What exactly do you mean when you say your husband has stayed quiet about this whole situation? Do you know what is driving your mother-in-law's decision to move closer? Could she be concerned about her age and her health, and feel insecure being so

far from "family"?

If it's not a health problem, then you and your husband are going to have to speak up. Your mother-in-law should be told that the two of you do not agree with her parenting advice, that you feel she has ridiculed you and your husband for years, and you would prefer that she remain where she is. And if she makes the move anyway—which she may—keep your distance.

DEAR ABBY: My twin sister and I are roommates. Although we usually get along well, she does one thing in particular that bothers me. When she goes out on a date (or home) with a guy she doesn't want me to know about, she lies. She'll tell me she's at a happy hour, a friend's house or still at work. I realize she doesn't have to tell me where she is 24/7, but I hate being lied to.

It scares and upsets me when midnight rolls around on a weeknight, she still hasn't returned from her "happy hour," and won't answer my texts or calls. I have told her numerous times that for safety reasons I wish she'd be honest and let me know where she's going and whom she's with. She accuses me of trying to pry into her personal life. How can I get her to see my side?

TWO SIDES IN VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR TWO SIDES: People who keep secrets often have something to hide. If your sister were proud of what she's doing (and the men she is with), she wouldn't be so secretive. As well-intentioned as you are, you can't force her to level with you. And because of that, it might lower the stress in your life if the two of you make other living arrangements.

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Success of Nats, Astros puts attention on starters



SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.
(AP)—

Washington went against baseball's trend toward bulked-up bullpens, dedicating 39 percent of its payroll to three starting pitchers: Max Scherzer, Stephen Strasburg and Patrick Corbin. The trio triumphed, lifting the Nationals to the first World Series title in the team's 51-season history,

Houston came within one win of its second championship in three seasons, led by a rotation headed by Gerrit Cole, Justin Verlander and Zack Greinke.

In a sport of copycats, will rotation arms regain prominence throughout the major leagues?

"That's my favorite question of every GM meetings. It is the narrative of whoever won the World Series," Los Angeles Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said Tuesday. "I think as you look back at the World Series champions the last five, 10 years, they're all great teams and they all get there in slightly different ways."

Starting pitchers averaged 5.2 innings this year, the lowest since baseballreference's figures began in 1925. The average ranged from 5.8 and 6.1 in every season from 1993 through 2015 but has dropped for five straight seasons.

The New York Mets and Washington led with an average of 5.8 this year, followed



AP

Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander throws against the Washington Nationals during the first inning of Game 6 of the World Series Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2019, in Houston.

by Cleveland at 5.7 and Houston at 5.6.

"If people are copying us, then we must be doing something right," Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said. "Starting pitching has been our philosophy. Hopefully we're going to continue to utilize that formula for continued success."

Cole and Strasburg are on the free-agent market along

with Zack Wheeler, Madison Bumgarner, Hyun-Jin Ryu and Jake Odorizzi. Cole, a 29-year-old right-hander who is 35-10 over the past two seasons, is expected to get a record contract for a pitcher, topping David Price's \$217 million, seven-year deal with Boston before the 2016 season and Verlander's \$31.33 million average salary under a three-year deal with the Astros

that started in 2019.

Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow described elite starting pitchers in the same way billionaires covet luxury yachts.

"They're difficult to acquire. They're expensive to keep. And there's not that many of them around," he said.

Washington selected Strasburg with the top pick in the 2009 amateur draft and kept him with a \$175 million, seven-year deal he opted out of this month with four seasons and \$100 million remaining. Scherzer signed a \$210 million, seven-year agreement as a free agent before the 2015 season and Corbin reached a \$140 million six-year deal on the open market last December.

Houston went a different route, acquiring its aces in trades and eschewing long-term contracts for pitchers. Verlander was obtained from Detroit on Aug. 31, 2017, for three prospects and agreed last March to a deal adding \$66 million and two years through 2021.

Cole was landed from Pittsburgh in January 2018 for four players and had two years of club control that cost the Astros \$20.25 million. Greinke arrived from Arizona at this year's July 31 trade deadline for a quartet of prospects and will cost Houston roughly \$50 million for 2 1/3 seasons.

"In general, the more flexibility we leave ourselves in the future, the better off we're going to be as an organization," Luhnow said. "That being said, there are certain players that can't be acquired on short-

term deals. We were fortunate that Justin was willing to consider a short-term deal. But not everybody can do that. And so we have to make a decision at some point are we willing to go longer than we would normally go in order to have a certain talent on our team?"

Starting pitchers averaged six innings as recently as 2014. But modern analytics have taught executives effectiveness for many pitchers decreases the third time they go through the batting order.

And for every successful free-agent deal, there are ones that don't turn out to be worth it, especially after high-salaried players enter their late 30s.

"Pitching is fragile," Philadelphia general manager Matt Klentak said. "If you're relying on free-agent starting pitching to build your organization, you go into that knowing that you may be left disappointed at some point in the contract."

Probe on Astros stole signs, broke rules

Meanwhile, Major League Baseball has expanded its investigation into the Houston Astros after The Athletic website reported the team stole signs during home games in 2017 by using a camera positioned in center field.

The report Tuesday quoted pitcher Mike Fiers, who played for the Astros that season, and three other unidentified people with the club. The Astros won the World Series that year - two sources told

The Athletic that Houston used the system into the play-offs while another source said the system ended before the postseason.

The website said the process was started by a struggling hitter and a coach, neither of whom was identified. The camera at Minute Maid Park was connected to a television monitor in the tunnel between the Astros' dugout and clubhouse, The Athletic said, and team employees or players would communicate expected pitches by banging a trash can to signal off-speed pitches.

"I just want the game to be cleaned up a little bit because there are guys who are losing their jobs because they're going in there not knowing," Fiers told the website.

The Astros said in a statement the team "has begun an investigation in cooperation with Major League Baseball" and declined additional comment.

Houston general manager Jeff Luhnow declined to talk about specifics.

"We take the allegation seriously and we're going to look into it. If you're not following the rules, it's a serious matter," he said Tuesday at the annual GM meetings. "I'm not going to get into exactly what I knew or anybody knew at this point. So I'm just going to have to wait and see. But I'm sure there will be an appropriate time to answer that question directly."

Luhnow said he hoped the allegations wouldn't put a damper on Houston's recent run of success, which includes the team's first World Series title in 2017 and an AL pennant this season.

Cards agree to deal with Wainwright for 2020 season

Kapler new Giants manager

In San Francisco, Gabe Kapler might need years to match the popularity of his predecessors with the Giants.

Farhan Zaidi believes he will get there eventually.

Kapler has been hired as San Francisco's manager a month after being fired from the same job by the Philadelphia Phillies. Kapler received a three-year contract to replace Bruce Bochy, a beloved figure who retired at the end of the season following 13 years and three championships with San Francisco.

The Giants made the announcement late Tuesday and planned a formal introduction Wednesday afternoon at the ballpark. Kapler is the second big hire in a matter of days by Zaidi, the Giants' president of baseball operations. On Monday, Zaidi introduced new general manager Scott Harris, most recently an assistant GM for the Chicago Cubs.

Zaidi and Kapler are now reunited from their time with

the Los Angeles Dodgers, where Kapler served as director of player development and Zaidi the general manager.

La Russa joins Angels

In Los Angeles, Tony La Russa has been hired by the Angels as senior adviser for baseball operations.

Angels general manager Billy Eppler said Tuesday that La Russa will assist in all areas, including evaluations of players and minor-league development. La Russa recently was with the Boston Red Sox for two seasons as a vice president and special assistant to their president of baseball operations.

Eppler said in a statement that he has admired La Russa for a long time and had previously discussed the possibility of working together.

La Russa was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2014 after leading the Oakland Athletics (1989) and St. Louis Cardinals (2006, '11) to World Series titles. He is third in Major League Baseball history with 2,728 wins.

Lakers pull away with late treys to top Suns



PHOENIX (AP)—Anthony Davis had 24 points and 12 rebounds, Kyle Kuzma added 23 points and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Phoenix Suns 123-115 on Tuesday night.

The Lakers (8-2) are off to their best 10-game start since 2010 and bounced back from a home loss to Toronto on Sunday. LeBron James added 19 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds.

Phoenix (6-4) trailed for a big chunk of the fourth quarter but pushed ahead 113-111 on Devin Booker's fastbreak layup with 3:29 left. The Lakers responded with three straight 3-pointers—one from James and two more from Kuzma—to lead 120-113 and put the game out of reach.

Los Angeles dominated in the paint with 70 points. Dwight Howard came off the bench to score 12 points and grab nine rebounds in 20 minutes. The Suns were led by Ricky Rubio and Booker, who both scored 21 points. Aron Baynes added 20 and Dario Saric had 18. Davis scored 14 points as

the Lakers took a 60-58 half-time lead. James added nine points and eight assists.

Sixers 98, Cavaliers 97

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid scored 27 points, including the go-ahead dunk with 13.2 seconds remaining, to lift the 76ers past the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Josh Richardson added 17 points and Ben Simmons had 15 for Philadelphia, which won despite missing 30 of 38 3-point attempts. Tobias Harris missed all 11 of his 3-point tries.

Jordan Clarkson and Kevin Love each had 20 points to pace Cleveland. Collin Sexton added 18 points and Tristan Thompson had 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

The Cavaliers trailed for most of the contest, but took advantage of Philadelphia's poor shooting in the fourth quarter, going up by as many as five points on three occasions.

Cleveland led 97-92 with 3:34 remaining after Sexton's driving layup, but the Cavaliers wouldn't score again. Harris pulled Philadelphia within 97-94 with a follow layup and then



AP
Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis dunks over Phoenix Suns guard Ricky Rubio (11) in the first half during an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, in Phoenix.

out with 1:31 to go.

White finished with 27 points. Zach LaVine had 25 for Chicago, and Wendell Carter Jr. finished with 17 points and 12 rebounds.

Jazz 119, Nets 114

Utah survived a sluggish start by putting together a dominant finish against Brooklyn.

The Jazz clamped down defensively during critical stretches in the fourth quarter to beat the Nets. Utah allowed a single basket over the final three minutes and pushed the pace on offense just enough to pull ahead for good in the last minute.

It ultimately helped the Jazz complete a rally from a 15-point deficit.

"They came out and they hit us first, but we came in and understood what we needed to do," Mitchell said. "We picked it up on the defensive end and made it tougher on them and we were able to get stops and then run."

Mitchell scored 30 points to lead Utah. Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 15 rebounds. Mike Conley also chipped in 18 points.

Utah went ahead for good after Gobert scored on back-to-back possessions in the final 90 seconds. Gobert's second basket, a dunk, gave the Jazz a 116-114 lead with 55.6 seconds remaining.

Irving missed a potential go-ahead 3-pointer with 7.6 seconds left. Conley and Mitchell hit 3-of-4 free throws in the final seconds to close it out.

Hawks 125, Nuggets 121

Falling into a 12-0 hole less than three minutes in brought back unpleasant memories for the Atlanta Hawks.

Trae Young rewrote the ending with another big game.

The second-year point guard scored 15 of his season-high 42 points in the fourth quarter and added 11 assists to lead Atlanta over the Nuggets.

Young finished seven points shy of his career high set March 1 against Chicago last season. He was 13 of 21 from the field and finished 8 for 13 on 3-pointers to flip the script on the Hawks' last visit to Denver.

The Nuggets scored the first 13 points on their way to a 45-point rout of Atlanta last November, but this time the Hawks pushed back.

"We didn't want the same thing to happen again," Young said. "We wanted to get back rolling."

Woods averaging nearly \$100K for every round



CALIFORNIA—The Asian Swing allowed four players to cross milestones on the PGA Tour's career money list.

It starts with Tiger Woods, whose victory at the ZOZO Championship in Japan pushed him over \$120 million. That comes out to an average of \$95,603 for every round he has played as a pro.

Rory McIlroy won the HSBC Champions in China to become the 10th player to surpass the \$50 million mark. Sergio Garcia became the ninth player to top \$50 million, but only because he finished the final round before McIlroy.

With his tie for 17th in Japan, Paul Casey became the 38th player to surpass \$30 million in career earnings.

Jack Nicklaus, who played his final PGA Tour event at St. Andrews in the 2005 British Open, remains at \$5.7 million.

Meanwhile, Woods confirmed on Tuesday he will play in next year's Genesis Invitational tournament in Los Angeles as the event showcases its elevated status for the first time.

The tournament at Riviera Country Club holds special significance for Woods, who

made his PGA Tour debut at the event in 1992 as a 16-year-old amateur.

Previously known as the Genesis Open, the tournament, which is run by Woods' charitable foundation, was boosted to invitational status last year.

The change grants the winner a three-year tour exemption, gives the tournament a higher purse, and reduces the field from 144 players to 120.

The new-look competition will be similar to the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill, hosted by Palmer before his death in 2016, and Jack Nicklaus' Memorial Tournament.

"It's an honor for us to be in the same category as Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer," Woods said.

"Those are two legends of the game. For us to have this type of elevation, all the things we want to have happen for the tournament are going to happen. On top of that, to be able to host the tournament each and every year at Riviera, where it all started for me, it's come full circle," he added.

Woods' participation comes after a successful 2019 which saw him seal a dramatic fifth victory at the Masters in April before capturing an 82nd career PGA Tour win.

hit a 17-footer on the ensuing possession to make it a one-point game with 1:42 left.

Cleveland had chances to build the lead after that, but Love missed a close-range shot before a shot-clock violation on the Cavaliers' next possession.

The 76ers were having their own trouble scoring with Richardson and Embiid failing to convert on consecutive possessions.

After a timeout with 26.6 seconds left, Coach Brett Brown called a high-percentage play with Harris finding Embiid close to the basket. Embiid slammed it home to give the 76ers their first lead, 98-97, since early in the fourth quarter.

Cleveland had a chance to win it, but Love's attempt from the top of the key rimmed out.

Pacers 111, Thunder 85

T.J. Warren scored 11 of his 23 points in the third quarter to lead Indiana over visiting Oklahoma City.

Malcolm Brogdon had 20 points, six rebounds and five assists, and Domantas Sabonis had

18 points and 16 rebounds for the surging Pacer, who have won 7 of 8, including four straight.

Danilo Gallinari scored 14 points, Deonte Burton had 13 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 11 points and six rebounds for the Thunder, who have lost 3 of 4 and remained winless on the road.

The Pacers went on a 15-2 run in the third quarter to take a 26-point lead. Aaron Holiday hit two 3-pointers and Warren made another in the spurt that ended with Doug McDermott's layup to put Indiana ahead 84-58 with 1:49 to go.

Heat 117, Pistons 108

Jimmy Butler scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, added 13 assists and host Miami wasted most of what was a 29-point lead before hanging on to beat short-handed Detroit.

Kendrick Nunn also had 20 for Miami, and Bam Adebayo scored 18 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Heat. Goran Dragic also had 18 points.

Miami is 7-3, matching the third-best 10-game start in

Heat history.

Luke Kennard was 0 for 7 in the first half, but recovered to score 22 for Detroit. Andre Drummond had 16 points and nine rebounds before fouling out, and Christian Wood added 16 for the Pistons—who never led, but made the second half plenty interesting.

Bulls 120, Knicks 102

Coby White made a franchise-record seven 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, and host Chicago pulled away from slumping New York.

White missed his first five shots from the field and began the final quarter with just four points. But the rookie guard put on a dazzling show down the stretch, delighting a United Center crowd that included Roy Williams, White's coach at the University of North Carolina.

White connected from deep on three straight Chicago possessions during a 24-2 run that made it 109-89 with 5:51 remaining. Backed by chants of "Co-by! Co-by!" he made one last 3 to run the Bulls' lead out to 120-100 before checking

the first 13 points on their way to a 45-point rout of Atlanta last November, but this time the Hawks pushed back.

"We didn't want the same thing to happen again," Young said. "We wanted to get back rolling."

Thiem beats Djokovic in 3-set epic to advance

LONDON (AP)—Dominic Thiem became the first player to advance from the group stage at the ATP Finals after outlasting five-time champion Novak Djokovic 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (5) in a seesaw crowd pleaser on Tuesday.

That leaves Djokovic facing a winner-takes-all match against Roger Federer—in a highly anticipated rematch of this year's epic Wimbledon final—to decide who will join Thiem in the semifinals.

Federer beat Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (2), 6-3 earlier, which means he and Djokovic both have a 1-1 record before playing each other in their last round-robin match on Thursday.

Thiem improved to 2-0 after beating Federer on Sunday, while Berrettini was eliminated after a second straight loss.

The Djokovic-Federer rematch was always going to be the highlight of the group stage at the season-ending tournament—where they have 11 titles between them—but now becomes even more of a blockbuster with a semifinal spot directly at stake.

Federer also has the added incentive of avenging that Wimbledon defeat, when the Swiss star missed two match points before losing 13-12 (3) in the deciding set.

“Actually, it’s good for me to play him again, and maybe that all helps to get a chance to get him back,” Federer said. “Maybe it took me a few days, couple weeks at most, to get over the Wimbledon loss. . . We’ll find out, but I think it’s all flushed away from my side. A lot of water has gone under



Austria's Dominic Thiem celebrates after defeating Serbia's Novak Djokovic in their ATP World Tour Finals singles tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019. AP

Djokovic led 3-0 and 4-1 in the tiebreaker before Thiem won five straight points and then converted his second match point when his opponent hit a forehand into the net.

The two-time French Open runner-up, who finished with 50 winners and 44 unforced errors in a match that lasted 2 hours, 47 minutes, fell onto his back on the court before Djokovic gave him a thumbs-up as they shook hands at the net.

The early match wasn't nearly as dramatic.

Federer earned the only break point of the first set at 6-5, but Berrettini saved it with a forehand volley. In the tiebreaker, the Italian double-faulted to hand Federer a 5-2 lead and netted a forehand return on set point.

Federer broke Berrettini to open the second set, but had to overcome a slight wobble at 4-3. Federer trailed 15-40 in that game and had to save three break points in total before holding an ace.

He broke again to seal the win when Berrettini netted a forehand.

On Wednesday, Rafael Nadal faces Daniil Medvedev in a rematch of this year's U.S. Open final, before defending champion Alexander Zverev plays Stefanos Tsitsipas in the late match.

the bridge since then.”

Federer has failed to reach the semifinals only once in his previous 16 appearances at the ATP Finals, in 2008, while Djokovic is trying to equal the Swiss star's record of six titles.

Thiem, for his part, has now beaten Djokovic in four of their last five meetings—although the previous three wins came on clay, his favorite surface.

In the best match of the

tournament so far, Djokovic needed to play near flawless tennis in the first set—making just two unforced errors—to hold off the Austrian.

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At 65 minutes, the first set



alone was longer than Djokovic's entire straight-sets win over Berrettini on Sunday.

But Thiem's aggressive shot-making started paying dividends after that, as he broke Djokovic to take a 2-0 lead in the second set and then again to start the third.

However, Djokovic fought

back to level at 3-3 and then thought he had earned a match point when Thiem served at 5-4. With the score at 30-30, Thiem's forehand was initially called wide—before a Hawk-Eye review showed that it had clipped the line.

Thiem held and then broke Djokovic at love—only for the Serb to break right back when the Austrian served for the match.



Colin Kaepernick plans to audition for NFL teams on Saturday in a private workout arranged by the league to be held in Atlanta.

The exiled former Pro Bowl quarterback posted on Twitter: “I’m just getting word from my representatives that the NFL league office reached out to them about a workout in Atlanta on Saturday. I’ve been in shape and ready for this for 3 years, can’t wait to see the head coaches and GMs on Saturday.”

The NFL hasn’t confirmed Kaepernick’s workout details.

A person familiar with the plans told The Associated Press the league’s decision to invite all 32 teams to watch Kaepernick “came out of the blue with no prior communication.” The person said Kaepernick’s team was given a 2-hour window to accept the invitation and was denied a request to schedule the tryout on a Tuesday or another Saturday.

Kaepernick’s representatives have asked the league to

provide a rolling list of teams that plan to attend the workout to ensure it’s a “legitimate process,” according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because details haven’t been made public.

Kaepernick hasn’t played

since 2016 with the San Francisco 49ers. He helped start a wave of protests about social and racial injustice that season by kneeling during the national anthem at games.

The NFL in February settled a collusion grievance Kaepernick and former teammate Eric Reid filed against the league. Reid now plays for the Carolina Panthers.

Meanwhile, less than 48 hours after he was benched for perceived lack of effort, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have cut cornerback Vernon Hargreaves.

The team’s 2016 first-round pick, Bruce Arians benched Hargreaves in the second half of Sunday’s win over the Ari-

zona Cardinals, saying after that Hargreaves “didn’t look like he was hustling to go in for a tackle.”

He ended up coming back onto the field in the fourth quarter after an injury to another cornerback.

After the game, Hargreaves said he planned to talk to Arians and the two would get “things straightened out.”

Given the timing of his release, one wonders if that conversation wasn’t exactly congenial.

In a statement announcing the transaction, Tampa Bay general manager Jason Licht said, “After thoughtful consideration over the past few weeks, Coach Arians and I came to the conclusion that we needed to make this change. Decisions such as this are always difficult, but we felt it was in the best interest of our team to part ways with Vernon at this time and allow him to explore other opportunities.

“We are disappointed that it did not work out here for Vernon and we wish him continued success moving forward.”

Hargreaves had started the first nine games of this season, but had only been available for 10 games over the 2017-18 seasons—last year it was a season-ending shoulder injury in Week 1, and two years ago it was a hamstring injury.

Brown was released by the New England Patriots earlier in the season amid allegations of sexual assault against the 31-year-old.

The former Pittsburgh Steelers receiver has claimed he has quit the NFL on several occasions, though has subsequently backtracked on those comments and is now seem-

ingly pushing for a return.

However, it has been reported a return in 2019 is unlikely, with Brown scheduled to meet with the NFL on Thursday to address the allegations he faces.

“[I’m] confident Antonio will play again this season,” Rosenhaus told ESPN when asked to comment on the reports.

“I believe the NFL should clear him after they interview him this week, and I expect he will be signed shortly after that.”

Brown has only played in one game this season, in the Patriots’ Week 2 clash with the Miami Dolphins.

Eagles extend Brooks’ contract

Brandon Brooks has been handed a new contract by the Philadelphia Eagles, reportedly making him the highest-paid guard in the NFL.

Brooks’ deal with the Eagles was set to expire in 2020, but on Monday the team confirmed the 30-year-old had signed a

new deal through to 2024.

The guard, who is a Super Bowl champion and two-time Pro Bowler, has been one of the most consistent performers in his position across the league in 2019, having overcome an Achilles tendon injury sustained in a playoff defeat to the New Orleans Saints in January.

“Since the day he walked into the building, he’s been a consummate Eagle,” Philadelphia’s general manager Howie Roseman said.

“You just see that with everything he does on and off the field. Certainly, you’re talking about a player who is the best at his position in the National Football League, a guy who gets hurt in the Divisional Round playoff game and who works his butt off to get back for this season’s opener. He means so much to our football team and our organization and I’m extremely proud to have him with us going forward,” he added.

NFL Media have reported the deal is worth \$54.2 million, with \$30m guaranteed.

Joeten 1 beats Triple J in semis series opener

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER



Joeten 1 is one step away from advancing to the finals after outclassing Triple J, 85-69, in Game 1 of their semis series in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Joeten 1 set up the easy win in the opener of the best-of-three series after establishing an early double-digit lead in the first quarter, 26-14.

Quan led the way for Joeten 1 in the first period after drilling 10 points. He also drew help from a lot of his teammates, as Alex Lauron and Patrick Rotap contributed 4 points each and Ernest Duenas, Vince Teregeyo, Tom Agustin, and Juanito Sambile also hit baskets in the opening canto for Joeten 1's 12-point advantage.

Then in the second period, Triple J managed to cut Joeten 1's lead to 3 points, 39-42, as the former picked up its scoring in that frame. Perry

Inos and Emmanuel Cobacha tagged team in the second quarter for Triple J as they combined for 12. The duo connected on four straight triples to start the team's comeback bid, while Bryan Santos closed out for Triple J and contributed 5 points.

After being threatened in the second quarter, Joeten 1 picked up the slack in the third frame and regained the double-digit lead 10, 63-53, behind the 6 points of Teregeyo.

Joeten 1 then widened the gap further in the fourth period with Chris Lilles carrying the team in the final canto after delivering 10 points. Quan also helped out in the fourth period, adding 7 to finish with a game-high 26 points.

Joeten 1 and Triple J will meet in Game 2 this Saturday at 6pm with the former aiming for a sweep and the latter hoping to extend the short series. The winner of the Joeten 1-Triple series will take on either Top Development, Inc. or RNV/Best Deal in the finals. TDI won Game 1, 124-122.

Joeten 1 85—Quan 26, Duenas 12, Lilles 11, Lauron

11, Rotap 7, Agustin 7, Teregeyo 6, Tobias 2, Sambile 2.

Triple J 69—Santos 23, Cobacha 16, Inos 11, Abobo 9, Obnimaga 4, Mamaril 2, Jabare 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-14, 42-39, 63-53, 85-69.

UFO caging opens Nov. 30, draws 19 teams



The United Filipino Organization and IT&E 2019 Open and Master Basketball League that is set to kick off at the end of the month will feature 19 teams.

The UFO caging that will be held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium starting Nov. 30 will have two divisions: the open category (for players in the 21 and above age group) and master (for 40 and above).

Pacific Island Club, MJD Corp. Blue Eagle Enterprise, Toyota, Shirley's, Islander Rent A Car, Mystique Grillers, RNV Construction, Hoopaholics, and The Game will vie for the open division championship.

In the masters group, the participating teams are IT&E, Blue House, PEGS Team Mythical, Las Vegas Bamboo Bar, JSN Construction, Old Iskool, Islander Rent A Car, PPG Pen, and Pacific Marine.

Games in the UFO caging will be held every Saturday and Sunday and schedule for the opening day will be announced later. *(Kimberly A. Bautista)*



MINI

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ing countries. Sponsorships and support from private companies can also be used to fund the CNMI's hosting of the Mini Games for the first time. The regional competition will feature six sports (athletics, baseball, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon) for now, but a few more could be added, pending availability of funds and logistics.

"The Games are going to be fine here. Everyone seems to be on board. We are committed to bringing the Games

here and you are committed to host it," said Minogue, who along with Lakhan met with some members and officials of the CNMI Legislature to discuss funding concerns for the Games.

"They gave us a very good hearing today (yesterday). We've met with them before, but this was the first time that the president and I noticed that they really want the Games. They know what they have to do. They know it will cost money to have the Games here and they want to make it (funding the event) a priority," the PGC official said.

an architect and engineer do the design and build aspect of it so what we're talking about today could shift or change a little bit depending on the actual engineering," she said.

NMSA

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center will be built to have a canoe house, beach volleyball courts, and a performing arts area.

"It's about a \$20-million project in total and it would be done in three phases. The thing I think that is really valuable is how we can make sports tourism or even our sports economy, more effective through infrastructure development and be able to have that platform to build on," Peterka said.

Concession stands will also be placed around the area and the existing grandstand at the track and field facility will be extended to accommodate more people.

"This is a conceptual process where you talk about 'this is what we envision.' If awarded the grant, EDA will have

GTC

From Page 28

just a minute, as his third came in the 12th and the fourth in the 13th.

Garapan failed to counter in the first half and still struggled offensively in the second, as the Mallards' first goal did not come until the 41st minute when Claude Ruben found his target. Despite ending its drought, Garapan was still behind, as Camacho earlier in the 30th minute lit up the board for the Binadus' 5-1 lead.

Camacho was still at it late in the game, as he recorded his sixth goal in the 52nd minute, while Yutaka Kadokura wrapped things up for GTC after scoring in the 54th.

Meanwhile, Rosie Jean Saralu stood out in Koberville's semis triumph over Mt. Carmel after getting a hat trick.

Saralu made her first goal in the 19th minute to hand the Umangs a 2-1 lead. Koberville's other goal came from Jared Mahanahane in the 13th minute, while Jayson Tagabuel drew first blood in the semis match with his shot in the opening minute.

Tagabuel also recorded the second goal for the Knights, as he found his target anew in

the closing minute of the first half to force the deadlock, 2-2.

The game remained tied in the early minutes of the second half, as both teams missed on their multiple attempts but Saralu kept pressing and her persistence prevailed, as she drilled back-to-back goals past the 30-minute mark of the game. The Koberville player shattered the standoff in the

33rd minute when she won a battle for the loose ball and unloaded a cross with MCS goalie Michael Calvo reaching to his right, but missing the save, as the ball rolled in.

Saralu then made it a 4-2 lead for the Umangs in the 38th when she also went one-on-one against Calvo, who this time tried to push off the ball, but the leather just hit his fingers before

dropping and going in.

Six minutes after Saralu's hat trick, the Knights threatened the Umangs with Tagabuel also getting his third goal. However, that was it for Mt. Carmel, as Jerome Mahanahane quickly retaliated in the 47th minute, while Jerome Mettao's shot two minutes later widened the gap en route to Koberville's semis win.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School goalie gets ready to defend against a Garapan Elementary School player during their semis game in the 2019 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koberville.



Success of
Nats, Astros
puts attention
on starters

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Lakers pull
away with
late treys to
top Suns

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Koblerville, GTC dispute title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School will slug it out for the elementary division championship in the 2019 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League.

The Umangs advanced to the finals following a 6-3 victory over Mt. Carmel School in their semis game at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Tuesday. In the other Final Four match played simultaneously with the Koblerville-Mt. Carmel tiff, the Binadus eased past the Garapan Elementary



School's Mallards, 7-1. The Umangs-Binadus finale will be played on Nov. 19.

Javen Camacho starred in GTC's lopsided victory over Garapan after firing six goals. Camacho was on target right at the get-go, as he delivered his first goal in the opening minute of the semis match. He then got his second



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School, right, and Koblerville Elementary School players chase the ball during their semis game in the 2019 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

in the seventh minute and then closed out the first half with two more goals in a span of

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NMSA starts grant application for Oleai

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Oleai Sports Complex is expected to undergo significant improvement, as Northern Marianas Sports Association begins the application process for an Economic Development Administration grant that would possibly double the size of the existing structure.

According to NMSA official Laurie Peterka, she, along with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Office of Planning and Development, have

started working on the application for the EDA grant that they have been discussing for over a year.

"We've been waiting on our government to get to where we are today. They've delayed us because the property belongs to them, but we're starting to push forward. I've been working very closely with the staff of DCCA and the office of Planning and Development for the last two weeks and the grant process is moving forward," she said.

Peterka explained that the



scope of the project is massive and will take up the property from the Saipan Mayor's Office all the way down to the Marianas

High School and the property adjacent, in a mirror image.

The project will improve the Oleai Sports Complex and extend it, too to create a connected cultural center.

The project includes adding a swimming pool, tennis courts, and a pedestrian bridge that goes across the Oleai Sports Complex to the beach area where the cultural

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NORTHERN MARIANAS ATHLETICS
The Oleai Sports Complex's track and field facility may undergo significant improvement once the Northern Marianas Sports Association's grant application is approved.

Mini Games hosting contract awaits Torres' signature

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The host agreement between the CNMI and the Pacific Games Council for the staging of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games on Saipan is done and just waiting for signatories.

PGC president Vidhya Lakan and chief executive officer Andrew Minogue met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres twice yesterday to discuss some details of the contract, which was later handed over

to the Office of the Attorney General for review.

"The AG needs to vet the document first," said Minogue, who is expecting the contract to be signed today.

Details of the agreement was not disclosed to the media, but Minogue, during an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday afternoon, said majority of the information on the contract are in the same proposal the PGC presented to the CNMI



through the Northern Marianas Sports Association in April. This includes staggered payments of funding for the quadrennial competition.

The 2021 Mini Games budget is pegged at \$3 million with the host government shouldering over \$2 million and the rest to be covered by fees that will be charged to the athletes and officials of the participat-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pacific Mini Games president Vidhya Lakan, fourth left, and chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, sixth left, pose for a photo with members of the CNMI Legislature and Northern Marianas Sports Association officials after meeting with the lawmakers yesterday on Capitol Hill.